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Inter-Arab Affairs

Committee Formed To Obtain Security Council Seat

JN3009135093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] The United Nations, 30 Sep (INA)—The Arab foreign ministers yesterday endorsed a proposal to form an ambassadorial committee to coordinate efforts toward obtaining a UN Security Council [UNSC] seat for the Arab group. The proposal was submitted by Iraq.

The correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in New York said that Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf proposed the formation of this committee during a meeting held by the Arab foreign ministers at the UN Headquarters last night on the fringes of the 48th UN General Assembly session.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf informed the Arab ministers that the Arab demand for a UNSC seat should be based on the argument that such a seat is required to represent the Arab group. It should not cite the geographic representation of continents, he noted.

The ministers agreed to form a committee comprising the Algerian, Syrian, Egyptian, and Qatari ambassadors, as well as the Arab League representative to be charged with holding contacts with other groups in this regard.

Official Says Boycott of Israel To Continue

PM2709161193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 93 p 3

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Denial of Any Individual Inclination To Lift Arab Boycott of Tel Aviv"]

[Text] Damascus—A senior official in the Boycott of Israel Bureau yesterday denied the existence of any individual Arab inclination to end the boycott. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that the boycott decision was adopted at Arab summit meetings and at the highest levels. It is a collective decision and should not be ended except through an Arab summit conference and through the Arab League. He added that the decision does not concern individuals, groups, or states alone. It concerns the interests of the Arab people as a whole, their economy, and their life. Thus discussing it is completely out of the question at present. It is a political position which concerns Arab rights as long as there are occupied Arab territories.

The official said that it is the only card we have at the moment and we must cling to it. How can the borders be opened to Israel, when it is still a usurper and an aggressor? Even the Israeli-Palestinian agreement cannot form any pressure factor to end the boycott. And this agreement could collapse like other agreements did before. The senior official added that no Arab state has the right to end its boycott of Israel as long as it is an Arab League member. And I believe that no Arab state can embark on something that detaches it from its Arab world, abandon Arab rights, and stand alongside Israel, whatever the pressures exerted on it.

Concluding his statement, the official reiterated that the boycott issue cannot be discussed before all the occupied Arab territories return to their owners or before all the Arabs decide through the Arab League to end the boycott. It is still premature to discuss this matter, and the boycott is continuing and the measures continue to be taken in accordance with the decisions relating to the boycott of Israel.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says al-Asad Holding Up Israel-Syria Accord

TA0509144593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat said that the Israeli-Syrian agreement is ready and that what is holding up its completion is President al-Asad's wish to extract maximum compensation from the Americans. 'Arafat told a MAPAM [United Workers Party] delegation visiting Tunis that the agreement with Jordan has also been completed, and that there are no more problems with Lebanon either. MAPAM Chairman Hanan Ezer confirmed from Tunis that 'Arafat made the remarks to the delegation. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that the delegation met yesterday in Tunis with Bassam Abu-Sharif and Hakam Bal'awi. The capture of the terrorist gangs in Qabatiyah was not raised in the talks.

U.S. Ambassador, 'Arafat Discuss Peace Process

LD2909174593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, today received John McCarthy, the U.S. ambassador in Tunis.

The U.S. ambassador offered his congratulations to brother leader Abu-'Ammar in appreciation of the courageous step that he and the Palestinian leadership made in achieving peace in the Middle East region. Brother Abu-'Ammar highly assessed the role played by U.S. President Bill Clinton and the U.S. Government and the measures adopted to provide an impetus to the peace process in the region.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar reviewed the urgent requirements in the coming phase to build an infrastructure in the occupied Palestinian territories and the machinery proposed for the forthcoming talks. Some problems and issues that stand in the way of the peace process were studied, in order to overcome them so that a just and comprehensive peace could be achieved in the region. [passage omitted]

Envoy Meets With Qaddumi

PM2909142493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p3

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "First U.S. Contact With Opponents of Palestinian-Israeli Peace Agreement"]

[Text] Tunis, Amman—Informed sources say that last Saturday's [25 September] meeting between U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia John McCarthy and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, was in fact a U.S. attempt to penetrate the Palestinian opposition ranks to verify media reports about the extent, nature, and motives of the opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that, by meeting with Qaddumi, McCarthy wanted to find out whether the opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was a matter of principle or opposition not to the agreement as such but aimed at improving the terms of the agreement.

Informed Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meeting between Qaddumi and McCarthy was held at the PLO Political Department headquarters at the request of the U.S. ambassador on the instruction of his government. They added that MaCarthy asked Qaddumi to clarify his position on the agreement.

Meanwhile, Fatah Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan has been holding a series of meetings in the Syrian capital Damascus with Palestinian leaders and ranks opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He will also meet with some Syrian leadership officials.

Al-Hasan arrived in Damascus from Amman the night before last at the invitation of some of the leaders of the Palestinian opposition factions based in Damascus to discuss the latest Palestinian developments and repercussions of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in the Arab and Palestinian arenas.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Hani al-Hasan's activities are causing some anxiety in Palestinian official circles which support the agreement, because of his influence on Palestinians, especially in Fatah, and his mounting strong and public opposition to the agreement. Informed sources say that Hani al-Hasan met with a large number of Fatah cadres and first-tier leaderships in Amman over the past few days including some Fatah leaders from inside [the occupied territories] as well as leaders from the Palestinian opposition factions.

Secret PLO-Israeli Talks on Detainees Issue Reported

PM2909152193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "At Secret Meetings in Cairo, PLO Demands Release of All Detainees; Israel Insists on Excluding 2,000 of Them"]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, a Palestinian source has revealed that secret PLO-Israeli meetings currently being held in Cairo are devoted to discussing the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and detention centers.

While the PLO demands the release of all the detainees, Israel insists on excluding 2,000 of them, who it says are "dangerous, and their hands are stained with Israeli blood."

It should be noted here that the Israeli side's obstacle to taking practical measures in this connection used to be the Knesset's nonratification of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, but now that this obstacle has been eliminated by the Knesset's ratification of the agreement, the remaining main issue is the 2,000 detainees Israel is firmly refusing to release, in addition to the timetable for the release of those Israel has agreed to release. [passage omitted]

Fatah Officials Deny Order To Disarm in Lebanon

PM2909142893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Two Palestinian Officials Deny Reports of Decision To Disarm Fatah in Lebanon"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Abu-Husayn Far'un, official in charge of Fatah's security in Lebanon, has announced that "media reports of a decision by the PLO leadership in Tunis to disarm the movement inside Palestinians camps on the Lebanese scene are untrue."

He described reports in this connection as "absolutely untrue and baseless." He told AL-HAYAH that "life inside the camps is normal, especially in the south. No change has occurred in Fatah, neither organizationally nor militarily. Our masses continue to exercise their political life and express their opinion in a democratic manner. We urge the media to ascertain the truth before publishing such information."

Far'un emphasized that disarming those loyal to Fatah "is not on the cards at present. We have not received any communications from our leadership in Tunis since before 13 September 1993, the date of the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Nor has it put us in the picture regarding any political or military issue."

He denied that Fatah in Lebanon had received any instructions to suspend the armed struggle. For our part, we are not going to provoke anyone. And there is a committee which coordinates with the Lebanese authorities. It is led by brother Mu'in Sabaytah and plays its role at all levels that concern the Lebanese state and any Palestinian camp. We are not against the law, nor will we be against it."

Far'un supported the position adopted by Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), head of the PLO Political Department, on the Gaza-Jericho agreement. He said: "The decision to establish a Palestinian state in Gaza and the [West] Bank with holy Jerusalem as its capital was taken at the Palestine National Council session held in Damascus in 1974. According to my information, I do not believe that anyone opposed it then."

He agreed with what Qaddumi said, namely that the agreement is just a courageous, hasty, and quick step, and what happened has become a thing of the past, and "we are awaiting the completion of the plan to establish the state whose capital must be Jerusalem. This is what we want, and we are not going to throw the Jews into the sea."

He expressed satisfaction at the security situation in the camps. He said: "We stress that we have a clear decision not to provoke anyone, and there is no problem. Security police and armed struggle are playing their role, and any difficulty with the state can be resolved and will not turn into a complex problem."

Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, Fatah official in al-Rashidiyah camp, told AL-HAYAH yesterday that "no change has occurred on the ground since the agreement was signed, and there should be no talk of disarming Fatah elements or others as though the aim is to keep people living on their nerves." He urged visiting the camps to prove that the situation is proceeding normally and that Fatah is still in its positions.

He said that "the issue of collecting arms can only be discussed between the PLO leadership represented by President Yasir 'Arafat and the brothers in the Lebanese state, and we comply with what brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] decides."

Moscow Envoy Expresses Fear Over Infighting to DFLP

PM2909140893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p2

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Moscow Conveys to Hawatimah Its Apprehensions About Palestinian Infighting"]

[Text] Damascus—A Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] spokesman has stated that DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah yesterday received a message from Moscow regarding the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The spokesman said that Posuvalyuk, Soviet [as published] leadership envoy and head of the Middle East and North Africa Department, delivered the message to Hawatimah in Damascus. He also held talks with Hawatimah and Abu-Layla, member of the DFLP's Political Bureau, on the latest Palestinian developments.

The spokesman said that the Russian political envoy expressed Moscow's fear of Palestinian infighting over the Gaza-Jericho agreement and pointed out that these fears have been conveyed to Yasir 'Arafat. Hawatimah, however, emphasized to the Russian envoy that the DFLP condemns infighting and that its main conflict was with the occupation and [Jewish] settlement.

PFLP-DFLP 'Unified Leadership' To Boycott PLO Meeting

JN2909172693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus—The unified leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has decided to boycott the 10 October meeting of the PLO Central Council. The two fronts consider the meeting illegitimate because the party calling for it has lost its legitimacy.

In a press statement today, the spokesman for the unified leadership said that this meeting has been called to secure a facade of legitimacy for the Gaza-Jericho agreement after the agreement failed to obtain the majority of votes at the PLO Executive Committee.

The spokesman commented on the meetings and coordination between the PLO envoys and the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations. These meetings are designed to review the UN resolutions on the Palestine question and the Middle East issue with the aim of clearing Israel's record. He said that these resolutions, which support the Palestinian people's national and historical rights, have come into existence thanks to the struggle of our people and the Arab nation. He said that the rush to annul these resolutions, in order to appease Israel and America, reflects political bankruptcy and shows what disasters this agreement will bring to the future of the Palestine question.

The unified leadership urged all sisterly and friendly states to reject this move and to adhere to the UN resolutions as long as the Israeli occupation continues.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] said the Gaza-Jericho agreement annuls the Palestinian people's national identity inside and outside their territory and removes Palestine from the Arab and international political map.

In a statement at the conclusion of its Central Committee meeting, which has been devoted to discussing the developments of the Palestine question, the PFLP-GC said it will do all in its power to abort this agreement. Calling for the agreement to be toppled, the PFLP-GC affirmed that it will work to rally every resource toward that end.

The PFLP-GC called for continuing struggle, support for the intifadah, the escalation of the intifadah, and all forms of struggle until Palestine is liberated. It stressed the importance of rallying the broadest spectrum of the Palestinian ranks and of creating an Arab-Islamic front in order to mobilize the masses to topple the agreement.

The statement said that the agreement neither represents the Palestinian people nor was it issued by them. It said

the agreement does not bind them now or at any time in the future with any arrangements that may ensue. It urged Arab and Islamic states and international institutions not to deal with the agreement.

In its statement, the PFLP-GC Central Committee appreciated the Syrian stand on the Palestine question and hailed the Palestinian forces and figures who rejected the agreement, as well as the nationalist Lebanese forces that reject the agreement.

PFLP Spokesman Views PLO Accord With Israel

JN3009085593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Sep 93 p 13

[Interview with Dr 'Abdallah al-Maliki, "official spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the occupied territories," by Musa Hawamidah in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Hawamidah] If, after the end of the transitional period, the agreement leads to the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and to a complete Israeli withdrawal in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, will you support the agreement then?

[Al-Maliki] This is impossible in practice, taking into account the principles of negotiations on which the agreement is based. The balance of power is not in favor of the Palestinian side and the agreement itself does not speak of states, sovereignty, or even the right to self-determination. Despite all that, and for the sake of argument, we say that when we reach the stage when the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital is established on the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, and when occupation ends and the settlements are dismantled, we will be prepared to recognize that result and criticize ourselves.

However, the question has another part that must be completed. If after the end of the transitional phase, the negotiations fail to establish the state, realize sovereignty, return Jerusalem, or dismantle settlements, if the self-rule is established as a permanent status in the occupied territories, and if it becomes clear that those who were involved in the negotiations violated the national program and the Palestinian principles, then that party must declare that it assumes full responsibility for failing to lead this people, stop representing the people, accept the judgment of the masses and history, and give others the opportunity to lead this people and restore their rights that were relinquished through the self-rule agreement.

[Hawamidah] Will you take part in the elections that will be held in the occupied territories?

[Al-Maliki] The proposed elections will crown the negotiations which started in Madrid and which we did not attend. These elections will be for a self-rule administrative council which we reject. The elections will be held under the nose, and in the presence of the Israeli occupation forces and that is unacceptable. Furthermore, the elections will not have a final national legislative nature. Rather they will be held to elect an administrative executive council to run the affairs of the occupation through Palestinian individuals. Therefore, we will not participate in the elections. We will not only boycott the elections, but will also encourage our masses to boycott them in view of their dangerous results and what they mean in terms of the relationship between this new authority and the occupation authority within the context of a power-sharing concept. The self-rule authority will be given specific executive tasks, while many vital and principal fields will remain in the hands of the occupation authorities. This does not reflect what we have always been demanding, a comprehensive, free, and democratic national legislative elections.

[Hawamidah] As we understand, the elections will be held after Israel withdraws from the Palestinian cities under international supervision?

[Al-Maliki] No. One must distinguish between what is taking place in Gaza and Jericho and what is taking place in the other occupied areas. There is talk about the withdrawal of the civil and military administration from Gaza and Jericho and its replacement by a self-rule authority that will be responsible for certain fields, while in the other West Bank areas there will be an early assumption of powers in specific fields like health, education, services, taxation, and tourism. Preparations will be made for the election of a self-rule council nine months after the implementation of this agreement. As for the Israeli forces, they will continue to withdraw from the Gaza-Jericho areas until April of next year and will redeploy in specific locations, particularly around the settlements to protect them as this is part of the agreement, because settlements will remain outside the jurisdiction of the self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho.

The Israeli army will have the right to enter any city, pass through the streets, and through these cities. The agreement stipulates that the 30,000 Palestinian police force will prevent any Palestinian operations against the Israelis wherever they are.

[Hawamidah] You are pessimistic even after the transitional period over which no agreement has been reached yet?

[Al-Maliki] I am pessimistic as to my concept and visualization of the nature and role of the self-rule authority and the state of affairs that will prevail during the first years of the self-rule. However, I am optimistic that these years will be numbered and that the years of the self-rule will be very limited as there will be many objective factors that will work to fail the self-rule. I am speaking about the economic situation during the self-rule period and the promises of billions of dollars, a few of which only will materialize and from which will

benefit only those parties that had benefited in the past from the funds of steadfastness and support while the poor will get poorer.

There is also the dispute between the leaders inside and outside the territories over positions and posts within the self-rule authority. Each party claims it is legally entitled to assume the prerogatives of the self-rule authority. This will create a real crisis between the supporters of the agreement inside and outside the territories. There is also the fact that the truth about the agreement and what has been relinquished will be discovered in the first years, not to mention the dangers and extent of the concessions made by the Palestinian side that signed the agreement in the Palestinian people's name.

There is also the role of the factions that oppose the agreement, the preparations they make, their readiness, their programs, and their encitement of the masses. All these reasons will bring about a new state of affairs that will make it more difficult for the self-rule authority to pursue its work. The masses and their vanguard and democratic factions at that stage will have a basic role to play toward foiling this agreement.

[Hawamidah] You have announced that you are against any inter-Palestinian fighting. What will you do if such a thing were to happen, God forbid?

[Al-Maliki] We have stated time and again that we are against inter-Palestinian fighting regardless of all causes and motives. We oppose the shedding of Palestinian blood, and our positions in the past are very clear, both inside and outside the homeland. The effective mediation by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] to end clashes between Fatah and Hamas in Gaza reflects our true position in that regard. However, the other side must make a commitment not to use force as a means to impose the domination of that authority over the Palestinian masses. In other words, we will not start, but this does not mean that we will not defend ourselves and our right to express our views and to mobilize, organize, and instigate people on all levels to fight occupation as long as it remains on our territory.

Agreements were reached in the past by the principal faction in the PLO to forbid fighting. Very regrettably, the agreements were not respected by certain sides for purely sectarian interests.

[Hawamidah] Calls were made to hold a Palestinian meeting for all factions, those in favor and those against the agreement. Will you attend the meeting?

[Al-Maliki] When we knew about this subject, we contacted Hamas leaders inside the occupied territories who denied the invitation. We do not attend meetings to discuss the restoration of cohesion on the same old principles and conditions. We will set new basic conditions to hold any meeting seeking to discuss or search for new national formulas of coordination, and these conditions will be considered basic ones which we will not abandon.

[Hawamidah] We heard that the PFLP Vanguards supported the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Al-Maliki] We expected some parties to issues false statements in the name of the PFLP. The most recent statement, issued by parties benefiting from the agreement under the name of PFLP vanguards in Bethlehem area specifically, aimed at creating a confusion among the PFLP masses and supporters. We were able to determine the source for this fabricated statement.

PFLP-GC Issues Statement on Gaza-Jericho Accord

JN3009063793 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 29 Sep 93

["Political statement" issued by the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, place and date not given]

[Text] Following a century of open struggle against the Zionist Movement and confrontation of its plans to obliterate the Palestinian identity and usurp our land as a prelude to extending its control to the Arab homeland, and in the wake of the direct and bloody struggle our people have been waging for more than 70 years, which was crowned by the outbreak of their contemporary revolution during which they offered thousands of martyrs, wounded, and prisoners—a group of those who, at one time, claimed to be affiliated with our people and revolution, has deviated to join the ranks that are hostile to our people's aspirations, objectives, and future, and to abruptly terminate all our rights and the struggles of our people and nation in a distorted and humiliating agreement which is a humiliation and disgrace to its signatories. As a result of fabricated factors created by Arab reactionaries and their supporters, this group was able to occupy leading positions in the PLO, and, in fact, to usurp its leadership as a result of what was made available to it despite our people's great sacrifices to safeguard their national identity and rights on their land, which gave the PLO a position in the Arab homeland and the world and which crystallized and entrenched the PLO principles in accordance with the Palestinian national charter. This group, represented by Yasir 'Arafat, has persistently sought to entrench its position through hegemony and single-handed dealing and through usurping the PLO institutions and decisions and voiding them of their national contents in a fabricated game which circumvents the spirit of all democratic concepts. At the same time, this group exploited our people's sacrifices in favor of its capitulatory program. It has also seized every opportunity to increase our people's suffering with the aim of instilling despair and of persuading our people that they have been left alone in order to relinquish the Palestinian people's national and pan-Arab rights and to completely end pan-Arab affiliations.

Facts and events have proved that the objective of all the aforementioned was simply to pave the way for the treasonous and capitulatory step taken by 'Arafat and his clique through signing the writ of recognizing the Zionist

entity and agreeing on limited administrative self-rule, which is called the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. This agreement, which has opened the door wide for Israel's lebensraum [al-majal al-hayawi], is in harmony with the American-Zionist interpretation of the new world order and clearly reflects the features of the American and international concepts that are based on the logic of force and crushing peoples so as to create the unipolar system and make its political and economic interests prevail.

The Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], which has always warned of the dangers posed by the capitulatory settlement policy pursued for a long time by 'Arafat's treasonous clique, and tirelessly confronted and tried to foil it, believes that 'Arafat's recognition of the Zionist entity and the agreement with it on administrative self-rule constitute high treason that inflicts grave damage to our cause and rights on our land at present and in the future contrary to the claims of the signatories to the agreement, its sponsors, and supporters.

The practical translation of this recognition, and, consequently, the Gaza-Jericho agreement, will lead to the following situation:

A. Palestine with its geographic borders will be canceled from the Arab and international political map; the Zionist entity will be entrenched with open, mobile borders in return for establishing a repressive Palestinian authority of services without having any form of sovereignty over 1 percent of the land of Palestine—the area left for the administrative self-rule, which will be shared with the Zionist settlements. These settlements became a reality even within the boundaries of the area defined in the agreement.

B. When the contemporary Palestinian revolution was launched, it included in its objectives and charter the liberation of the Palestinian national soil. The West Bank or Gaza were not under occupation at that time. Moreover, thousands of martyrs fell on this path. The Gaza-Jericho agreement regarded all the blood that was shed as a kind of violence and terrorism that deserves condemnation, as viewed by this sell-out leadership and as was provided in the letter of recognition.

C. Naturally, anyone who dares sell out even one iota of the land will sell out the most sacred holy places. Accordingly, the signatories to the agreement acknowledged that practically Jerusalem is the Zionist entity's capital. Any statements to the contrary are merely a kind of disinformation and are refuted by the provisions of the agreement and also by the enemy's positions and clear statements.

D. This leadership accepted to be a tool in the Zionist and imperialist schemes to control our Arab and Islamic nation. The agreement with the Zionist entity carries all the signs and factors of sedition in the Palestinian arena as well as internal fighting after 'Arafat's letter of recognition to Rabin affirmed that he will repress the Palestinian opposition. According to the articles of this agreement, the responsibility for the settlers' security will be assumed by the Zionist security [forces]. Moreover, 'Arafat's pledge to quell the intifadah as well as the current preparations to form a repressive 30,000-man police force are all clear signs heralding a civil strife which is being concocted against our people in order to silence them and liquidate their intifadah.

Stemming from our awareness of the scheme and its objective, the PFLP-GC will do its utmost to foil this scheme. We appeal to our Palestinian masses to be vigilant and aware of the seriousness of joining the repressive 'Arafatist police organs. We warn against falling into the trap of what is being concocted in this regard.

E. The treasonous Gaza-Jericho agreement not only sells the land, recognizes the Zionist entity and forms an alliance with it, but also cancels the Palestinian people's national identity inside and outside their land, and creates a new situation bound to brand any Palestinian who claims the right to repatriation with terrorism after the traitors have acknowledged the Zionists' right to Palestine. The other aspect of this issue is that it represents a frank call for settling the Palestinians outside their land.

F. Both the recognition and the agreement with the enemy have opened the door wide for the Zionift normalization program in the region. They also constitute a cover for the Arab regimes which were eager to establish integrative relations with the Zionist entity, and also for the Arab regimes which have established secret relations with this entity, so they will later actively liquidate all aspects of the conflict on the political, cultural, and economic levels.

Therefore, while condemning this treasonous agreement, the PFLP-GC Central Committee calls for the following:

1. Foiling the agreement and its traitorous symbols, which is a national, pan-Arab, and Islamic responsibility. It will also work with all sides to mobilize all forces and provide an appropriate climate and basis to achieve that goal.

2. Continuing the armed struggle and the conflict with the Zionist enemy, supporting and escalating the intifadah, and backing all the militant forces in order to liberate Palestine and repulse the Zionist-American conspiracy.

3. The need to rapidly secure popular Palestinian support, to create an Arab-Islamic front, and mobilize a large popular sector to foil the agreement. The PFLP-GC will do all it can to achieve that aim.

4. All the hesitant Arab and Islamic forces should clearly reject and condemn the agreement.

5. The agreement, which was falsely signed in the name of the Palestinian people, does not represent the Palestinian people, did not emanate from them, and does not commit them now or in the future to any arrangements arising from it.

Therefore, we urge all the Arab and Islamic countries, as well as international institutions, not to consider this treasonous agreement as an endorsement by our people to relinquish their rights in their homeland.

6. We remind the fraternal Arab countries that those who refuse to settle the Palestinian refugees should reject and resist the agreement, since our people reject the proposed alternative homeland and the policy of eviction and do not want anything other than their return to their land, homes, and homeland.

7. The PFLP-GC Central Committee urges all the cadres of the honorable Fatah Central Committee to take a national position and appeals to them to decide their position and reject and resist the agreement. At the same time, it hails those who have already rejected this treasonous agreement.

After having analyzed the strategic goals of the conspiracy, the PFLP-GC Central Committee holds the United States responsible for imposing injustice and oppression on our Palestinian people and condemns U.S. support for the Zionist entity, its repeated attempts to impose its will, its violation of human rights, and its attempts to obliterate and crush our people's identity, history, and national rights.

The Central Committee also condemns the Arab regimes which have paved the way for and worked to conclude the agreement, as well as those who quickly welcomed and embraced it, like the Moroccan king, the godfather of the Camp David [accords], and Husni Mubarak.

After having reviewed all positions toward and reactions to the agreement and studied all the current and future possibilities, the Central Committee extends a greeting of appreciation and pride to our people's position inside and outside Palestine, who have rejected the agreement and insisted on continuing the intifadah in a genuine spirit expressing their strong awareness.

The Central Committee salutes the positions of the Islamic and national forces in Lebanon, foremost of which is Hizballah. The Central Committee also highly values the position of Syria, which believes that the agreement harms our people's rights and interests and those of their nation. It also values Libya's objection to the agreement and praises the Iranian Islamic revolutionary position and the positions of all the national, progressive, and Islamic forces in the Arab and Islamic countries for their rejection of the agreement.

Concluding, the statement says: Let the national, pan-Arab, and Islamic struggle strengthen in a militant front to confront the aggression and the occupation and to foil the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Let our people's struggle inside and outside [the occupied territories] be promoted to liberate Palestinian and Arab land, repulse the Zionist aggression and occupation on the path of liberating Palestine, and stress our people's inalienable rights. Let the popular armed struggle strengthen and let the heroic intifadah escalate until our people achieve their national goals. Greetings to our great people and their historic steadfastness and struggle, greetings to the martyrs, who watered Palestine's land with their blood, and greetings to the steadfast prisoners in the occupation's jails. We vow to remain loyal to the martyrs of our people and nation and to stay together in the trench of confrontation and steadfastness until Palestine's liberation.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC Central Committee

OPEC Affairs

Oil Ministers Reach Agreement on Production Quotas

Iranian Production To Increase

LD2909180593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 16:00 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Excerpt] During the 11th session of the OPEC oil ministers held in Geneva, an increase in the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil production quota of 2[illegible] barrels a day was approved.

According to the new OPEC member quotas, Iran will produce 3.6 million barrels of oil per day during the fourth quarter of the current year. The OPEC general quota during the same time has been set at 24.8 million barrels per day.

Informed sources in Geneva announced this afternoon that the OPEC session did not succeed in reaching a final result because of Kuwait's persistence that its quota should be increased. It has been decided that a final meeting of the oil ministers be held within the next few hours in Geneva to make a final decision on each country's production quota.

Saudi Arabia will maintain its previous quota of 8 million barrels per day during the fourth quarter of the current year, and other countries—apart from Kuwait—have also agreed to the new quota table.

At the same time, following the OPEC members' agreement on a new production ceiling for that organization, the price of crude has begun to increase in world markets. [passage omitted]

Iran's Minister Outlines Agreement

LD2909214993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 20:00 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] The oil ministers of 12 member countries of OPEC reached agreement on output quotas for this winter.

The OPEC oil ministers' session ended its work Wednesday [29 September] night. Our correspondent reports.

The oil ministers of 12 member countries of OPEC finally reached agreement on this winter's output quota after a six-day session in Geneva.

Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, our country's oil minister, took part in an interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Wednesday night, after the conclusion of the OPEC session.

He said the recent OPEC session was one of the most significant meetings of the oil exporting countries. He stressed: Keeping in mind the crises that dominated the world's oil markets prior to the session, if the OPEC session in Geneva would not have managed to reach an agreement it could have been predicted that the price of oil would have dropped to less than $10 per barrel.

Our country's oil minister termed the efforts of the heads of the OPEC states—particularly those of Iran and Saudi Arabia—as critical to the success of the session.

He added: Another success of this session was the return of Kuwait to the OPEC quota system. Another outstanding success for the Islamic Republic of Iran was the increase in Iran's quota from 3.34 million barrels per day to 3.6 million barrels per day.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i referred to the approaching winter and an increase in demand, as well as the commitment of all members to abide by their quotas, and envisaged that oil prices would show an outstanding increase during the next few months, and they would get closer to the OPEC basket price of $21 per barrel.

It should be added that the price of crude oil in world markets has begun to increase since this morning following the OPEC members' approach to an agreement. The price of oil increased by $1 per barrel since Wednesday morning, even before the final result of the OPEC session was announced.

Kuwaiti, Saudi Ministers Comment

LD2909555993 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Oil ministers of the OPEC countries reached an agreement, at the end of their Geneva meetings tonight, on the distribution of quotas for a period of six months—beginning this October—under a production ceiling of 24.52 million barrels a day.

The OPEC secretary general announced that, according to the agreement, the quota of the State of Kuwait would be 2 million barrels a day.

OPEC countries have expressed satisfaction with the agreement. [Kuwaiti] Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli said that he was happy with the agreement, although the State of Kuwait had hoped for a higher quota.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir also announced that the new agreement filled the gaps that had led to the abundance of OPEC oil supplies. He said that he expected that the agreement would have a positive effect on prices.

Algeria

Dembri Meets With Venezuelan, Spanish Counterparts

LD2909084793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Excerpt] On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's session, Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri yesterday in New York held talks with his Venezuelan and Spanish counterparts, Fernando Ochoa Antich and Javier Solana. The Algerian and Venezuelan officials exchanged views on the current deterioration being witnessed by the international oil market, and noted that there was an identity of views regarding the need to respect the OPEC production ceiling and the quotas allocated for each member-state of this organization. The two ministers considered that the deterioration in the oil prices can seriously affect the stability of the resources of both countries at a time when far-reaching reforms are taking place in both countries. The two sides studied the idea of convening an extraordinary meeting of OPEC to be attended in addition to the energy ministers by the ministers of foreign affairs and finance of each member-state.

Mohamed Salah Dembri and his Spanish opposite number dealt also with the development of the Western Sahara issue, and in this connection they reaffirmed their support for the settlement plan prepared by the United Nations and for the UN secretary general's efforts. [passage omitted].

Meets With France's Juppe

LD2909162993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri met today in New York with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. During this meeting, the French foreign affairs minister renewed France's support for Algeria, which is going through a difficult phase. The French official expressed his hope that Algeria would achieve more progress on the road of economic reforms and political dialogue.

New Directors for National Radio Appointed

LD2909165893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] New directors for the national radio channels were appointed at the National Radio Enterprise today following a meeting that included Radio Enterprise Director General Lamine Bechichi and directors of national and regional channels and local stations.

Mr. Fathi Saidi was appointed director of the National Radio Channel 1 in place of Rachid Boumediene, who was summoned for tasks at a higher level at the Radio Enterprise.

Also, Mr. Rabih Addous was apppointed director of Radio Channel 2 in place of Mrs. Zahia Kharfalla, who retired.

Egypt

Mubarak Outlines Future Domestic Tasks

NC3009094093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2057 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that he wants Egypt in the coming stage to move from the list of low-income developing countries to the middle-income group of countries. This will not be possible unless Egyptian society turns into a community capable of increasing its productivity steadily and continuously and selling the largest part of these products in the world markets, he added.

President Mubarak made these remarks to Ibrahim Nafi', chief editor of AL-AHRAM, in an interview the first part of which will be published tomorrow, Thursday. President Mubarak emphasized that the coming period will see close cooperation among the government, the business sector, the private sector, and the workers to achieve this goal, adding that the dialogue on the issues of development, investment, and mobilization of resources will involve all the people and the legitimate organizations. President Mubarak pointed out that increasing productivity, completing the infrastructure to reclaim millions of feddans, developing the import system to protect local products, promoting exports, providing credit and incentives to small producers, and building new industrial and urban zones will be the most important areas of national action in the next stage.

President Mubarak said that he looks forward in the upcoming period to creating an atmosphere that can help introduce more democratic progress, noting that this depends on the ability to stand up to violence and terrorism and secure the widest popular participation in confronting, containing, and eliminating this phenomenon. He added: Our goal is to gradually reach a full democratic system that enables everybody to exercise public activity legitimately and that provides the best individual and collective rights and freedoms for the people.

President Mubarak pointed out that at the beginning of his third term, he looks forward to starting an ongoing national dialogue to discuss issues of political, legal, and constitutional progress, to be attended by all parties and political forces that believe in democracy and reject violence and terrorism. He added: However, we all must place public interest above any other consideration. President Mubarak noted that the upcoming period will see wide- ranging and extensive changes at the political, executive, and administrative levels, and that this may require quite a few changes in ministerial posts. The purpose of these changes is to achieve the goals that we

look forward to in the next stage, such as attaining stability by the end of 1995, he added.

President Mubarak touched on the significant progress made in the eighties in freedom of the press and ridding it of all restrictions and all sorts of censorship. He emphasized that the national [state-owned] press constitutes open channels for various opinions, ideas, and beliefs that may or may not be in agreement with those of the government. The president added: The national press still needs to open up more to the various trends in the upcoming stage, which we hope will see more freedom, something that will contribute to furthering democratic progress. The president stressed the need to safeguard and consolidate stability, which some terrorist groups are trying to undermine with external help. He pointed out that this is a major responsibility that cannot be borne by the security agencies alone, adding that free and effective popular participation, backed by further democratic progress, must play its role. He stressed that the people have a direct interest in safeguarding stability and confronting terrorism, which harms their income and national economy. The president pointed out that one of our national tasks in the next stage is to consolidate our internal unity and national cohesion, noting the important role the political parties could play in this regard.

In response to a question, President Mubarak stressed that the economic reform policy will be one of the areas of action in the next stage, after the first stage of economic reforms has succeeded in portraying a good image of the Egyptian economy in the world. He added that Egypt's efforts will continue to emphasize its path toward a market economy in a way that could help the state mobilize its resources and [word indistinct] to the various areas of interest to the people and consolidate the economic reform march. He added that the economic reforms will not affect any rights of the workers, farmers, or civil servants, noting that the emphasis in the upcoming stage will focus on solving the people's day-to-day problems. He added: A segment of society will continue to need the state's support, and I side with this segment. Providing services for this segment occupies a considerable part of my attention, he added.

The president stressed that the state will continue to subsidize low-cost housing units and share part of the costs of electricity consumption for the low-income people. He noted that the development plan is currently being reexamined to invest more funds in the services projects in the Upper Egyptian governorates and villages and in shantytowns to provide them with drinking water and sanitary drainage facilities.

The president then touched on the state's position regarding the attempts to undermine stability in the country. He said: We will not allow the use of force to propagate any doctrine or opinion and will strike at any attempt to stir any sort of sedition or control any association or organization illegitimately. He noted that all the needs of the police and security agencies will be fulfilled so that they can nip in the bud any conspiracies concocted against the people. The president pointed out that the dialogue did not and will not stop with all popular organizations and legitimate parties to uproot the causes of sedition, adding that an integrated plan is being implemented to secure all points of entry and Egyptian borders using the most updated technology. The president emphasized that more efforts will be exerted to establish close links with all friendly countries to protect the country from any infiltration attempt by terrorists, thus safeguarding the gains that have been accomplished, adding that this will be done soon.

Mubarak Receives Opposition Party Leaders

NC3009100093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0827 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Jamal Rabi', leader of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt, at the Presidential Office today. Rabi' said after the meeting that all parties are soldiers for Egypt and that they will work together along with President Husni Mubarak to deal with and overcome the problems facing Egypt.

Labor Party leader Engineer Ibrahim Shukri met with President Husni Mubarak earlier in the day. He said the meeting dealt with President Mubarak's interview with AL-AHRAM newspaper on issues to be tackled in the next stage. He expressed hope that the next stage will see the completion of democratic measures to achieve development for Egypt and assert its role in the region.

[Reporting President Mubarak's meetings with party leaders, Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 0900 GMT on 30 Sep 93 says: "President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im Turk, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [al- Hizb al-Ittihadi al-Dimukrati], and Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Al, leader of the Social Justice Party [Hizb al-'Adalah al- Ijtima'iyah], at the Presidential Office this morning."

[The radio adds: "Diya'-al-Din Dawud, leader of the Nasirist Democratic Arab Party, said his meeting with President Mubarak today was good. He added: We discussed various issues on the priorities of the next stage in light of President Mubarak's interviews and statements which were the subject of discussion today. He said: Actually, I am satisfied with the directives concerning the next stage and its potential achievements."]

Effect of U.S. Aid on Government Planning Viewed

NC2909102693 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Sep 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Has the Government Prepared Itself for a Halt in U.S. Aid?"]

[Text] Reports from Washington indicate that the U.S. Administration intends to link foreign aid to democracy and human rights. Yes, the U.S. Government is currently

considering giving aid to the states that respect human rights, apply democracy, and safeguard freedom of thought and opinions.

Has our government prepared itself for the day when the new U.S. measures will be applied? Or has it closed both its eyes and ears so it will be surprised by these measures and then raise a hue and cry and denounce the "unfair" measures.

Over the past years the government has received approximately $18 billion in U.S. aid in the form of cash, equipment, commodities, and trade facilities. We will not ask where this aid has gone or what it has been spent on. However, it is our right to ask: Has Egypt really prepared itself for such a day?

We receive over $2 billion annually, which we spend on building water stations and schools in villages and hamlets; inoculation campaigns; grain, wheat, and machine purchases; and establishing public and private companies, and even small workshops.

A suspension of this aid will mean an economic and social catastrophe the dimensions of which only Gods knows.

The national economy resembles someone walking on a tightrope who cannot bear any shock or motion. There are two possibilities, not three: Either the government has prepared itself to apply democracy or it has decided to turn its back on aid and snap the rope.

Military Court Hears Defense in Vanguards Case

NC2509181393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1736 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—The Higher Military Court today held its first hearing of the defense pleas in the Vanguards of Conquest case, in which 55 defendants, seven of whom are still at large, face various charges.

Defense lawyers moved that the arrest procedures and house searches conducted by the police were illegal. They also moved that the confessions made by the defendants were illegal, as they were obtained by coercion.

The Court referred 19 defendants to medical examiners to determine whether they have been subjected to torture, as claimed by the defense. The court will hold another hearing tomorrow.

Seeks Probe of Torture Allegations

NC3009104893 Paris AFP in English 0104 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, Sept 30 (AFP)—The military high court in Cairo in an unprecedented move asked the public prosecutor on Wednesday [29 September] to open an investigation into the alleged torture of 15 detained Islamic militants, judicial sources said.

It is the first time military authorities handling the trials of suspected Islamic fundamentalist activists, have ever taken such a step. It came amid growing criticism of human rights abuses by the Egyptian authorities in their campaign against Islamic fundamentalists.

Public prosecutor Raja' al-'Arabi was expected to comply with the request, the sources said.

The move was decided at the trial of suspected members of the underground Tala'i' al-Fatah (vanguard of conquest) organisation in which a total of 66 people have been charged, including 17 still at large.

The court found that the bodies of some of the accused bore traces of wounds, according to court officials.

Fifteen of the accused told the court president they had been tortured by police in their top security cells at Turah prison south of Cairo. They accused the prison governor of taking part in the torture sessions, the sources said.

Last week, Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organisation, denounced the alleged torture of Tala'i' al-Fatah suspects. The Egyptian human rights organisation said last Thursday that it harboured "grave suspicions" about the death of one suspected Islamic militant only 24 hours after his arrest.

The Egyptian rights group has itself asked the public prosecutor to investigate the death, regretting that "for political reasons, the practice of torture is no longer a punishable crime in Egypt."

The twice-weekly newspaper Al-Sha'b which is sympathetic to the fundamentalist cause, accused President Husni Mubarak this week of "being aware" of police practices and even "condoning" them.

The paper said that in the run-up to Monday's referendum on a third mandate for Mubarak, there had been a number of people tortured to death and several cases where people under arrest, including fundamentalists, had simply disappeared.

A Western diplomatic source in Cairo said Western governments remained "vigilant" about human rights abuses in Egypt.

The Tala'i' el-Fatah group, a recent off-shoot of the Jihad (holy war) organisation, claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on August 18 directed against Interior Minister General Hasan al-Alfi. The attack killed five people and left 17 injured including al-Alfi.

Meanwhile security measures "without precedent" have been adopted by the authorities to deter any terrorist attack before the referendum, police said Wednesday.

The sources said the measures were a response to information obtained by police that Islamic militants were planning to "destabilise the country" in the days before the vote.

Their plans included "assassinating senior interior ministry officials", according to police.

Security will be stepped up at all government offices and tourist attractions and more bodyguards assigned to senior officials.

Sources close to the police said that once the referendum was over, security forces would launch major offensives against the bastions of fundamentalism in the country.

Editorial Criticizes Gaza-Jericho Plan

NC2409151593 Cairo AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH in Arabic 16 Sep 93 p 12

[Editorial by Muhammad 'Atiyah: "The Peculiarity of the Palestinian Issue and Saudi Arabia's Constraint"]

[Text] Since its onset, Muslims and Arabs have seen the Palestinian issue as one concerning them all. Whether the Arabs and Muslims did anything good for the issue is beside the point.

A serious development occurred following the signing of the Camp David Accords. Back then, the Palestinians rejected the Camp David Accords, so did many Arabs and Muslims. With hindsight, this was a mistake. Since then, many people have called on the Egyptian leadership to jettison the Palestinian issue and rid itself of the burden. Eventually, not only Egypt, but most Arab and Islamic countries, washed their hands of the issue, leaving it to the Palestinians. The Palestinian issue, Arab and Muslim countries said, concerns the Palestinians. They said they did not want to interfere with any Palestinian decision concerning the conflict with the Zionist enemy that has usurped the al-Aqsa mosque and the Muslim land surrounding it, because it is "Palestinian."

The result was that the Palestinians were left alone to decide on an issue that does not only concern them, but affects Muslims everywhere.

The usurped land is like no other. It houses the al-Aqsa mosque, which is mentioned in the Koran. From that mosque, Prophet Muhammad journeyed to heaven. Inside it, he led other prophets in prayer. Blessed be the land surrounding the mosque.

Acting under foreign and Arab pressure, the PLO leadership capitulated and signed the Gaza-Jericho agreement. I will not discuss it. I do not wish to elaborate on how disappointed we are with it or review its rejection by Palestinian organizations. Nor do I wish to harp on about the treason of Jews and the treachery of the crusaders.

I want to discuss something else. After so easily surrendering Jerusalem, which hosts the al-Aqsa mosque, blissfully offering persuasion that this agreement was endorsed by the owners of the land—the Palestinians, so to say—would we do the same thing for the Kaaba and the mosque of Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and prayers be upon him?

Some may question the meaning of such a comparison. But let us assume that an enemy were to occupy Saudi land and take control of the Kaaba and Medina, which houses the mosque of Prophet Muhammad. Would Arab and Muslim peoples and governments say to our brothers in Saudi Arabia: This is your concern and you are entitled to make what decision you deem correct in your negotiations with the usurping enemy?

I believe that we, the Muslim public, will never take such a position. We will never condone any harm to Saudi land, the land of the Kaaba and Prophet Muhammad's mosque, the land in which Islam was born.

But what about our governments? Will they take the same position with Saudi land that they have taken with the Muslim land called Palestine? Or will they act differently? God only knows. But no. He who surrenders Jerusalem can surrender anything else.

Brothers: Saudi and Palestinian land are equal. Every Muslim has a duty toward them, a duty to protect them and to sacrifice his own life to safeguard the holy places. Protecting the holy places is not just the task of our brothers in Saudi Arabia or Palestine. It is the task of all Muslims. Every Muslim, be he a ruler or subject, should contemplate this issue and decide accordingly in a way that would please God, not the White, or any other, House. I simply want you to reflect upon this comparison and draw your own conclusion.

Minister Addresses African-Latin American Seminar

NC2909101193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Egypt has affirmed that the radical changes the world is witnessing today dictate that the African and Latin American states should bolster their cooperation with the objective of supporting their negotiating strength in international forums so as to protect their interests. This came in a speech Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa presented at the opening of the seventh round of the African-Latin American dialogue seminar in Alexandria this morning; Assistant Foreign Minister Sa'id Rif'at read the speech on his behalf.

'Amr Musa said in his speech that this round is being held under circumstances that are very important for the Middle East because the Arab-Israeli conflict is witnessing decisive developments in the direction of a settlement. He said hopes are high that the spirit of reconciliation, peace, and cooperation will spread throughout the region. He said the change from conflict to peace and reconciliation will be a vital addition to cooperation between Africa and Latin America. The foreign minister praised the honest efforts of the group of 15 countries, consisting of a number of African and Latin American countries, to confront the challenges posed by the rapid changes in the international arena.

He affirmed the importance of having African and Latin American countries concentrate on topics such as transferring technology, direct investments, and resolving debts crises, because these are topics where no results have been achieved in the north-south dialogue.

The seminar is expected last for two days.

South African Official Arrives for Visit 29 Sep

NC3009085393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2003 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—South African Interior Minister Hernus Towel Jacobs [name and title as received] arrived here this evening on a visit to Egypt that will last for a few days. In an arrival statement, the South African official hoped to step up security cooperation between Egypt and South Africa to benefit from Egyptian expertise in the fields of security training, counternarcotics, and antiterrorism methods as well the exchange of visits between officials from the two countries.

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, who received the South African guest, stated that he will hold talks with him on bilateral cooperation in the field of security.

Libya

Official Source: No Objection To Scotland Trial

LD2909120793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1140 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Sep (JANA)—An official source at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation said that the replies provided to the legal questions and queries addressed by the suspects' lawyers were positive replies. The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation reaffirms that the contents of the letter of the [UN] secretary general in this connection can be regarded as adequate and acceptable; we do not object to their [the two Libyan Lockerbie suspects] standing trial before the Scottish judiciary, and we urge them to accept that. We believe that only one step remains for a solution to this crisis which has been going on for a long time and which has caused grave human, material, and moral damages to our people and to neighboring peoples. This is that the two suspected persons, their families, and their lawyers are to be convinced of appearing before the Scottish judiciary.

Defense 'Still Considering' Reply

NC3009103193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Sep (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl, coordinator of the Defense Committee for the two Libyan suspects in the crash of the American plane over Lockerbie in 1988, has said that the Defense Committee is still considering UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali's reply on the issue.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent, he added that he believes that the reply contains many positive elements and that the reply returned the case to its legal framework away from political considerations.

He said the Basic People's Congresses affirmed in their meetings in June 1992 that they have no objection to the two suspects making a decision of their own free will to agree to stand trial somewhere. He added that the Libyan Foreign Ministry is currently trying to deal with the issue.

Decision To Hand Over Suspects Attacked

LD3009101293

[Editorial Report] Tripoli JANA in Arabic at 0745 GMT on 30 September carries a Tripoli-datelined item citing an article published yesterday in the Libyan newspaper AL-SHAMS titled "The Libyan Foreign Ministry Surrenders Our Sons to the British Government." The item contains some garbled passages.

The article notes that the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general agreeing to surrender two Libyans to the British or U.S. authorities. 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison currently in New York, will deliver the memorandum. The memorandum says that after studying the requests of the British and U.S. Governments, the "Libyan Foreign Ministry agrees to surrender the brothers al-Amin (Khalifah) Fuhaymah and 'Abd-al-Basit ('Ali Muhammad) al-Mirghani to the judicial authorities in either of the two countries." All that remains, the memorandum states, is convincing the two persons and their families of the decision.

JANA continues: "The AL-SHAMS newspaper, which has often said it does not reflect the viewpoints of the revolutionary leadership in Libya, the people's congresses, and definitely not the Libyan Foreign Ministry, but reflects the viewpoint of its writers and journalists (words indistinct), warns against this dangerous direction of the Libyan Foreign Ministry." The newspaper goes on to say it wants a just trial for the suspects, but worries about "the objective impossibility of that in Britain and America."

AL-SHAMS calls for "not trusting the Libyan Foreign Ministry, because it is a tool for surrendering their sons" and that they should not "have faith in the U.S. Administration and its propaganda, and not feel secure with the British Government and its politicians." The paper assures the suspects of the Libyan people's support, saying "the Libyan people will not neglect you and will not surrender you (words indistinct) and that life is an honorable stance." The Libyan people, the paper says, will not be terrified by "the thick stick of old Britain or the fleets of tyrannical America."

Arab, African Union Leaders Condemn UN Sanctions

LD2909201493 Tripoli JANA in English 1809 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Tripoli, al Fateh 29, [29 Sep] JAMAHRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretaries of Arab and African trade unions condemned the arbitrary and coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahriyah by the invalid Resolution 748 asserting their rejection of the policy of escalation and ultimatum being followed against her by the western states.

In a message to the leader of the revolution following their meeting in Tripoli, the secretaries of Arab and African trade unions reaffirmed the support and solidarity of millions of workers with the Great Jamahriyah. They urged all justice and peace loving peoples to stand with the Great Jamahriyah in countering these measures.

Accord Signed With Egypt on al-Jaghbub-Siwah Road

LD2909143893 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Engineer Fu'ad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalil, head of the general board of roads and bridges general commission in the Arab Republic of Egypt, said that a consultative agreement has been signed to plan and design the al-Jaghbub-Siwah road [Libyan, Egyptian oases], the length of which is 150 km. It has been mentioned that the road Sidi 'Amr-Sidi Sulayman, which is currently under construction, is 30 km.

Mauritania

Nation Joins Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty

LD3009020293 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers convened today under the chairmanship of President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya. The council studied and endorsed the following bills: A bill that permits the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to join the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons treaty signed on 1 July 1986 in Washington, London, and Moscow. By joining the treaty, our country expresses its commitment to peace and its eagerness to contribute to international efforts to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. [passage omitted]

GCC Justice Ministers Conclude Fifth Meeting

LD3009033193 Riyadh SPA in English 1934 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Riyadh, Sept 29, SPA—Justice ministers of member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ended their fifth meeting here today by reviewing several judicial issues led by a scheme for a GCC unified system civil code.

A press statement was read by Dr. Mohammad al-Sayyari, director general of legal affairs at the GCC General Secretariat at the end of the two-day meeting of the GCC justice ministers.

In his statement, he said the GCC justice ministers discussed also the joining of the GCC states to the Arab agreement for trade arbitration.

The justice ministers also took a number of decisions and recommendations on issues of the meeting's agenda, which are expected to boost further cooperation among the GCC states in the sphere of unified regulations in order to forge judicial cooperation and speed up the procedures for a number of issues for their final shape to be submitted to the Supreme Council for approval.

The GCC is made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Bahrain

Minister Affirms Commitment to Boycott of Israel

JN3009101393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 30 Sep (WAKH)—Habib Ahmad al-Qasim, Bahraini minister of commerce and agriculture, has reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to any united Arab stand on the Arab boycott of Israel.

In a statement published by the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM today, he said that Bahrain will not unilaterally reconsider the Arab boycott of Israel in light of developments in the Middle East peace process.

The Bahraini minister said he is satisfied with the positive results in this regard, adding that international relations have become closely connected to the point that one should have a positive outlook on international trade and the need for it to proceed without obstacles. He said that Bahrain is one of the countries most committed to the principles and provisions of the Arab boycott of Israel. He noted that Bahrain is awaiting a united Arab stand toward this boycott and will adhere to this stand. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir, Iranian President Discuss Ties, OPEC Meeting

LD2909193793 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] His royal highness, the amir of the country, received a telephone call this evening from President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the sister Islamic Republic of Iran, on bilateral relations between the neighborly countries. The telephone call also dealt with the outcome of the OPEC oil ministers conference convening in Geneva.

Prime Minister Meets With Canadian Special Envoy

LD2909185393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1535 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 29 Sep (KUNA)—Michael Wilson, special envoy of the Canadian Government and member of parliament, has stressed that the war of liberation of Kuwait and the following stage have created an atmosphere of solid relations between Kuwait and Canada. This was illustrated in Kuwait's intention to open an embassy in Canada at the end of this year.

The special envoy of the Canadian Government, who is visiting the country, met today with Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, and delivered to him a message from Canadian Prime Minister Kim Campbell, addressed to his royal highness, the amir of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Wilson pointed out that last December, when he was minister of finance and trade, he signed an agreement with Kuwait, according to which facilities worth 500 million U.S. dollars were to be granted to government agencies and institutes in the State of Kuwait.

He made clear that he realized during this visit that the State of Kuwait is in need of benefiting from these facilities in the areas of oil, gas, defense, telecommunications, electricity, water, public works, and others. [passage omitted]

This is Wilson's fifth visit to Kuwait. His last visit was in May 1991.

Saudi Arabia

Editorial Welcomes Clinton's Emphasis on UN Role

PM2909153493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Clinton Principle"]

[Text] Maybe it is premature to talk about the "Clinton principle" in foreign policy. However, the U.S. President's UN General Assembly address yesterday is bound

to answer in detail many of the questions raised about Washington's world policies in the new administration's era. Those who expected him merely to emphasize the familiar issues in U.S. policy have been disappointed.

The world has changed and many of the analyses of the Cold War are no longer valid. At the same time, the change process is very complicated and surrounded by dangers to the extent that it is erroneous for anyone to assume that there is a group of certain facts on which policy can be built in the long term.

It could be years before a new balance of powers is formed in one way or another. Actually we may never test that kind of stability which the existence of a bipolar world provided in the past. Whether one accepts it or not, the foreign policy issue has probably—from now on—become a process of managing instability in one way or another in one region or another. And certainly the existence of a strong United States devoting itself to defending the rule of international law is an important factor in proving that the complicated transition period which the world has now entered will not deteriorate and turn into a state of lawlessness and chaos.

That does not mean that the United States can or must assume the task of guarding the world. Because this task cannot be assumed by one state or a group of states without assistance from the international community as a whole.

President Clinton's emphasis on the UN role, and indeed the vital importance of international pluralism, should be welcomed. And the United States [as published] can play a more effective role if its powerful and rich member states show more belief in it and more generosity.

The U.S. President's ideas about redefining NATO's role and strengthening other regional and international groupings deserve careful attention. And it is clear that the Clinton administration, which is moving toward the end of its first year in power, has completed the learning phase. It is now showing a more consistent understanding of the problems of international life. From this moment the administration's performance in foreign policy will be judged more rigorously. Because the period of "grace" granted to the administration has ended. And of course, the United States' friends will always be willing to extend a hand of support whenever necessary and whenever possible. But at the same time they will feel it is incumbent on them to offer advice, consultation, and frank opinions if they think that the administration is moving in the wrong direction.

In defining the principles of his foreign policy President Clinton has made it possible for the U.S. people and the United States' friends and enemies throughout the world to judge his actions in the light of his words.

Papers Comment on Oil Policy, OPEC Meeting

LD2909133793 Riyadh SPA in English 1236 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, Sept 29, SPA—Saudi newspapers today commented editorially on a number of local, Arab and international issues. The Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said Saudi Arabia's oil policy still remains a basic stable factor in the international market as it preserves the balance for the interests of the producers and consumers. It called on OPEC member states to follow a moderate policy in realizing their interests and preserving reasonably the stability of the international market. The newspaper described as a good initiative, a latest accord at a meeting now in progress in Geneva on a new ceiling on oil production.

Commenting on the same topic, AL-JAZIRAH, published in Riyadh, said the accord of OPEC on production ceiling as proposed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was their collective approval, reflected the member states desire to keep united this vital economic organization for the international economy.

It said the kingdom's proposal, which was accepted by the organization, demonstrated the renewed role of Saudi Arabia in an active form. The paper noted Saudi Arabia's big financial sacrifices in the past whenever OPEC was in a critical situation and said this came as a result of the kingdom's commitment to moral principles toward the international economy to keep it sound and flourishing as well as to allow the developing countries to have a good opportunity to realize its expectations for welfare and prosperity. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Chairman Salih Receives Invitation To Visit Sudan

JN2909173893 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, today received Sudanese Education Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, who conveyed to the brother chairman a written message from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation.

The message deals with bilateral relations, spheres of joint cooperation, issues and developments of interest to the Arab nation, and developments in southern Sudan. The message also includes an invitation for the Presidential Council chairman to visit sisterly Sudan. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Rebuff Opposition's Anti-Saddam Plot

PM3009091993 London AL-WASAT in Arabic
27 Sep-3 Oct 93 pp 30-33

[Zaki Shihab and Russel Warren Howe report: "Details of Most Serious Attempt To Overthrow Saddam Husayn"]

[Text] London, Washington—Some Iraqi opposition leaders have revealed sensational details of a plan to overthrow President Saddam Husayn prepared by well-known military and civilian figures in Tikrit, Mosul, and al-Ramadi, aborted in the final moments.

The opposition leaders have spoken bitterly to AL-WASAT about the United States, which knew about all phases of the plot, for refraining from playing any part on the pretext that "field or military support for the putschists would perhaps have delayed the great progress made on the peace front which was crowned with the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement."

The Iraqi opposition leaders and some Iranian sources have confirmed that a number of officers were executed after the failure of the attempt which, according to these sources and the confessions of some participants to the Iraqi authorities, was very carefully planned. The attempt left President Saddam Husayn and the people close to him confused about the size of the growing opposition in the military establishment and the Republican Guard, particularly as the participants came from tribes and families which until recently formed the firm basis on which the Iraqi regime depended in confronting the opposition and nipping in the bud any attempt to overthrow it before it reached the implementation stage.

AL-WASAT relates the succession of events which led to the foiling of the attempt, based on Iraqi and non-Iraqi sources in Jordan, London, Tehran, and Washington.

Staff Colonel Sufian Salih al-Ghariri, commander of the tank brigade deployed around Baghdad, was making plans with some of his aides for his brigade's participation in the military parade to mark the 17 July Revolution anniversary last July when he received a telephone call from the presidential palace informing him that President Saddam Husayn wanted to hear from him about the extent of the brigade's readiness to participate in the parade. So the colonel, who comes from Tikrit, took leave of his colleagues to go to the presidential palace. The brigade commanders did not hide their surprise inasmuch as they were about to put the final touches to the arrangements for their participation in the parade, which was to be attended by the Iraqi president. Before many hours had passed they received a telephone call notifying them that some military changes had been made and that Staff Col. al-Ghariri no longer had any links with the brigade.

After that telephone call, some Republican Guard units arrived to carry out a number of orders for the arrest of some officers and tank crews who were supposed to take part in the parade, without giving the nature of the charges made against them. Col. al-Ghariri and some officers were at the same time undergoing continuous interrogation and physical torture, psychological pressure, and terrorizing of some of their relatives. Many of them were threatened that their wives or daughters would be raped before their very eyes to make them admit to contacts with foreign circles.

On 14 July last the security organs attached to the Republican Guard arrested Major General Bashir Talib, a former Republican Guard brigade commander who hailed from Mosul and whose name appeared in the days of Presidents 'Abd-al-Salam 'Arif and 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Arif. On the night of 17-18 July, hours after the military parade in Baghdad, a special state security unit was closing in on the home of Jasim Mukhlis, who was a member of parliament when his uncle, Mawlud Mukhlis, was speaker. Many Tikrit people acknowledge Mawlud's favor in putting them on the political map. He had played a major part in helping the Tikritis and their neighbors gain admission to the military establishment and the various universities and institutes.

At the head of the team interrogating Maj. Gen. Talib, Jasim Mukhlis, and Staff Col. al-Ghariri was Qusayy Saddam Husayn, head of the special organ in charge of protecting the president, and Sabir al-Duri, chief of General Intelligence. The number of detainees doubled quickly everyday until, according to Iraqi opposition figures in Amman and London who have links with the families of the detainees, it reached about 1,200 detainees from the areas of Mosul, Tikrit, al-Ramadi, and Baghdad. Sources close to the families of some detainees have told AL-WASAT that the Iraqi state security organs were behaving confidently and in a way that suggested that some foreign circles might have revealed some secrets about the plans being made to overthrow the Iraqi regime with the help of ground and airborne military units.

The opposition sources also told AL-WASAT that the coup plot leaders had succeeded in recruiting air force officers from al-Taji camp near Baghdad and that some of these officers were arrested after making some reconnaissance sorties over areas and palaces frequented by Saddam Husayn in Baghdad.

Informed sources and Western diplomatic circles attributed the discovery of the plot to a number of factors, the most important being the fact that Mukhlis and Maj. Gen. Talib had gone abroad and met with some Arab and foreign officials and discussed with them details of what they intended to do against the Baghdad regime.

Mukhlis, who is over 70 years of age, didn't use to hide his anger at the state of affairs in the country in all respects. During a visit to the Jordanian capital he met with a prominent Iraqi opposition figure resident there for many years. Over three days of meetings and discussions between two close friends, the opposition figure, who preferred to remain anonymous, did not hesitate to

convince his friend of the need to do something to change the situation in Iraq and ease the harsh suffering of the people in the face of international siege. After underscoring the influence the people of Tikrit have on the ruling establishment, that figure said that what the Iraqi president was doing was harmful to their role and their future. That prompted Mukhlis to say that most of the people of Tikrit were unhappy about what was going on and did not want to be the spearhead used by the regime to impose itself and its rule on the country the way it has.

Mukhlis pointed out that many commanders of the major military units were ready to take serious action to change the situation and that such action must be carried out with the blessing of the various major Iraqi forces, neighboring Arab states, and concerned forces in the West, particularly the United States.

The Iraqi opposition figure, who spoke to AL-WASAT by telephone from Amman, admitted that Mukhlis did not need encouragement to make an active move against the regime but that what was needed at the time was a crystallization of organized efforts to make such a move. That figure made direct and indirect contactf with a number of Arab and Western governments, resulting in the arrangement of a visit to London by Mukhlis to meet with some American figures representing national security organs, the State Department, and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

But the visit did not take place on time for various reasons, the most important being the fact that Mukhlis did not wish to draw attention to his activities abroad.

A few weeks after Mukhlis's return to Baghdad, the Amman-based Iraqi opposition figure and Sa'd Salih Jabr, chairman of the Free Iraqi Council, who has been living in London for years, were in continuous contact to arrange a meeting for him with U.S. officials in London.

In reply to a question by AL-WASAT, Jabr said that the U.S. officials "expressed willingness to come to London and meet with Mukhlis when the opportunity and circumstances allowed him to visit any Western capital."

In his conversation with the Iraqi opposition figure living in Amman, Mukhlis had insisted that he should not be absent abroad from Iraq for more than three days. The opposition figure in Amman then contacted Jabr to make the necessary arrangements. The latter admitted that arranging that meeting with the U.S. officials was most difficult because of the determination to hold it in complete secrecy. October 28 was an opportunity which Mukhlis wished to take to visit London and meet with the Americans concerned with the situation in Iraq.

The opposition figure living in Amman conveyed that date to Jabr and the two sides, along with the authorities concerned in Jordan, Britain, and the United States, arranged the departure of Mukhlis from Amman to London without stamping his passport. On arrival at Heathrow Airport he was received by British and U.S. officials. A U.S. official explained to him that, as the state where the meeting was taking place, Britain should be told about the meeting, a procedure applied in such cases in implementation of known agreements between the two countries.

From Heathrow Airport Mukhlis, the Amman-based Iraqi figure, and their American companions went to the Hilton Olympia Hotel, near the Olympia Exhibition Center in the British capital, where a number of rooms had been reserved for the delegation members under assumed names. A meeting hall had also been reserved and fitted with electronic devices to guard against listening devices and tape recording. The U.S. officials who came from Washington for the meeting with Mukhlis, the opposition figure from Amman, and Jabr spoke fluent Arabic and knew the names, positions, and units of many Iraqi officers. While explaining his concept of the nature of the action that he and his colleagues were preparing to take against the regime, Mukhlis said that he and an officer at al-Taji air base near Baghdad were securing air action to coincide with the actions of the tank brigade and other ground forces. The U.S. official's reply was that the officer named had been transferred from al-Taji air base weeks before. Mukhlis reassured him that the officer had recently returned to that base.

Mukhlis did not ask the U.S. officials for more than air cover and raids on defined military positions such as al-Rashid camp and al-Taji air base in the same way U.S. aircraft had bombed Iraqi Intelligence headquarters several months ago.

Citing some of what happened in these meetings, Jabr said that on the first day the U.S. officials listened to the ideas presented by Mukhlis and the names of those expressing willingness to cooperate in a military action against Saddam's regime. Mukhlis put them in the picture in relation to the conditions the country is experiencing. After they had cabled Washington to inform it of the information and views they had obtained, the U.S. officials were eager to know the scale of the support the Iraqi president receives from the people of Tikrit and others from among Sunni Army officers.

At the end of the meetings the U.S. officials told Mukhlis, Jabr, and the Amman-based opposition figure that they needed two weeks before they would be able to reply in terms of what could be done in this connection. Two days later the opposition figure and Mukhlis returned to Amman while Salih Jabr continued the contacts with the Americans, who requested him to go to Washington quickly. Ten days after the London meetings, Sa'd Jabr left for Washington. At the airport officials from the U.S. Administration were waiting for him. He was taken in a private car to an office in Washington without passing through immigration. At the meeting held that day with U.S. officials he heard statements from which he understood that the United States does not wish to bring about any change in Iraq at the present stage for several reasons, most importantly that it is in the process of achieving important steps vis-a-vis the Middle East

issue, and that any change in conditions in Iraq is bound to affect developments in the region and preoccupy Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians with issues that do not concern their conflict with Israel.

Hours after the meeting started Jabr returned to London to tell his friend resident in Amman that U.S. officials were not serious about bringing about change in Iraq. They agreed to tell Mukhlis and Maj. Gen. Talib not to expect any U.S. assistance.

Talib, who is from Mosul, used to avoid meeting Mukhlis in Amman in order not to arouse suspicions about their cooperation. The opposition figure in the Jordanian capital coordinated between them and delivered the messages exchanged between them.

Talib made good strides with regard to gathering a number of Mosul officers. He also—in cooperation with Mukhlis through intermediaries—assumed the task of forming a supreme military council comprising six officers representing the various Army sectors in order to take charge of security in the event of a successful coup. They also agreed with Jabr and others—among them a prominent Kurdish figure—to form a council to lead the country and prepare for general elections. But the wave of arrests launched by the regime and the uncovering of all the contacts made placed this attempt alongside the other abortive attempts to topple the regime, although it is more advanced than the previous attempts in terms of the involvement in its preparation of a larger number of officers from Tikrit, Mosul, al-Ramadi, and Baghdad.

Well-informed Iraqi sources have told AL-WASAT that the Iraqi president was surprised by the scale of the efforts exerted to get rid of his regime. He was also surprised by the names of the Tikrit figures participating in it, whom he could not get rid of for fear that their execution would anger the tribes to which they belong. The names of known figures were linked with the attempt, among them one of former Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr's sons; the former defense minister's sons, Sa'd Hammad Shihab and Ra'd Hammad Shihab; and Dr. Raji al-Tikriti, who is in charge of military medical services in the Army, and hails from the al-Bunasir tribe. Those arrested include Staff Lieutenant Gen. Thabit Sultan; Maj. Gen. Mahir Sultan, commander of the Karkuk Division; Nizar Sultan (a civilian); Dr. Kamil al-Wayyis, professor at the Faculty of Arts and uncle of Iraqi Ambassador to Amman Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis. The authorities released a number of tribal chiefs days after their arrest, among them Shaykh Muhyi al-Haymas, who is a resident of al-Hillah and belongs to the al-Busultan tribe, the strongest tribe in the al-Hillah area; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim Hani, who held the post of social affairs minister in the days of 'Abd-al-Salam 'Arif.

The Iraqi sources told of a visit by the Iraqi president to Shaykh Zamil al-Manna', a leader of al-Sharqat, to ask his help in persuading al-Jubur and al-Hadithah tribes to continue to cooperate with him. But the shaykh told him: "I advise you to keep away from them, because their cooperation will not benefit you in the future."

Perhaps this position contributed to the release of a large number of detainees belonging to these tribes. The sources confirmed that the Iraqi regime did resort to executions. The same sources said that the body of Muhammad al-Tikriti was handed over to his family and that marks of torture were clearly visible on it. Many people in Mosul, al-Hillah, al-Diwaniyah, al-Ramadi, and Tikrit fear the future and the unhappy news they might receive about the fate of their sons who are still in detention and under investigation.

In Washington, U.S. intelligence sources have confirmed that meetings were held in London and Washington late in 1992 between U.S. officials and Iraqi oppositionists who requested assistance, especially "air cover" for a coup against Saddam. And that their requests included the use of U.S. aircraft to prevent Iraqi military helicopters flying over Baghdad and Iraq's other main cities.

The sources pointed out that the United States had initially encouraged the plan. But after George Bush lost the elections and Bill Clinton won the presidency, the new administration became divided. At present, there is a prevalent belief in the administration that support for such a move would poison the atmosphere in the Middle East and fuel opposition to the peace orientation among Palestinians, Jordanians, and others, who could consider it another example of U.S. hegemony.

During the election campaign last year Clinton opposed Bush's policy of helping to topple the Iraqi president. He said that he was willing to hold talks with Saddam, but he changed the conditions after winning the elections, insisting first on the holding of "popular elections." He decided—in response to pressure from Martin Indyk, who formulates Middle East policy on the National Security Council—to classify Iraq and Iran as "common enemies" of the United States. However, he did not imbue the conflict with a personal nature, whereas Bush did personalize the conflict with Saddam.

White House sources say that there are still differences of opinion inside the administration with regard to Iraq. The White House is adopting a more rigid position than the State Department, which prefers to keep away from Iraqi domestic policy and give internal discontent the chance to take its natural course.

The intelligence sources—as usual—declined to name the U.S. officials who met with the Iraqi opposition figures or to mention any names from the U.S. intelligences agencies which coordinated with the Iraqi opposition. Asked whether the agency involved is the Defense Intelligence Agency, one official said: "No comment."

U.S. Said To Propose Exporting Oil Via Haifa

JN2909133693 Amman AL-BA'TH in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p 1

[Text] AL-BA'TH—Iraq has rejected an American proposal to lift the economic blockade imposed on it if it agrees to export its oil via the old pipeline extending to

the port of Haifa on the Mediterranean. PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi conveyed the proposal to Iraq.

AL-BA'TH learned that Iraq informed Qaddumi that it is ready to accept the continuation of the blockade rather than embark on any kind of normalization with the Zionist entity.

Clinton's Address to UN General Assembly Viewed

JN2909113093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has described U.S. President Bill Clinton's address to the UN General Assembly as a general admission that a state of chaos is prevailing everywhere in the world and that America is not feeling secure because its interests are facing many dangers.

In its editorial today, the paper says that this admission is an exposed contradiction of the idea which former U.S. President George Bush and current President Clinton had tried to promote, which is that the world is stable under America's leadership and that everything is going in accordance with its will.

The paper adds: In his speech, Clinton had to admit that America is really incapable of imposing its continuous hegemony on the world. This prompted it to use threats or force to prevent others from achieving goals that it does not want them to achieve.

The paper refers to America's single-handedness in making decisions concerning carrying out aggressions against other countries without having to hide behind the United Nations. This was clear in Clinton's speech in which he stressed America's right to unilaterally carry out military operations without the need for a resolution or having to hide behind the United Nations.

Concluding its editorial, the paper notes the U.S. Administrations' attempts to promote so-called democracy, the American way, describing them as attempts to justify their crime of colonizing the world through the very logic of colonization and racism. In this context, the paper refers to these administrations' endeavors to portray the world as a group of despotic regimes that are hostile to democracy and human rights.

Assembly Condemns 'Hostile' U.S. Policy on Sudan

JN2909145493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—The National Assembly has condemned the hostile U.S. policy toward fraternal Sudan, the most recent manifestation of which was putting Sudan on the list of states sponsoring terrorism.

In a statement to INA today, Dr. Safa' Salih al-'Umar, the chairman of the National Assembly's Arab and International Relations Committee, said the Iraqi National Assembly has been following the stepped-up U.S. media campaign against fraternal Sudan, pointing out that the U.S. Administration follows a well-known pattern in fighting nations that make independent decisions and stick to their options.

He added that the same approach was used against Iraq. This shows the use of double standards toward human rights issues, democracy, terrorism, and other issues. There are many examples that condemn the U.S. endeavor to control other nations, he said.

Al-'Umar reiterated the Iraqi people's support for its brothers in Sudan, voicing great confidence in the Sudanese people's inevitable victory over all international terrorist attempts against it. He also said that the Sudanese people will overcome all difficulties in the way of its march and will reaffirm the freedom and independence of their national decisonmaking and political options.

Defense Ministry, Media Said Moved to Tikrit

LD2909220893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1927 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Vienna, 29 Sep—Iraqi opposition information sources in Vienna said today that the Iraqi authorities had recently moved the regime's important institutions to the governorate of Tikrit, President Saddam Husayn's birthplace, due to the collapse of security in the capital, Baghdad.

A statement released here by the information bureau of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, an organization opposed to the Iraqi regime, said that reliable information had been received from Iraq saying that the Ministry of Defense and the radio and television corporation were among the important institutions that had been moved to the city of Tikrit, for fear of a deterioration in an already critical situation in Baghdad.

The statement said that large forces of the regime, composed of the Special Security and Republican Guards were roaming important streets, squares, and areas, and units and patrols of plainclothes officers were making sudden searches for deserters from military service.

The statement also said that some former officials of the "Aritite era," from 1963 to 1968, had been arrested, including former ministers such as Rajab 'Abd-al-Hamid, 'Abd-al-Karim Hani and Subhi 'Abd-al-Hamid.

The statement said that Rajab 'Abd-al-Hamid was the very person who had saved Saddam Husayn by hiding him and then helping him to escape to Syria following an attempt on former Iraqi leader 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim.

Al-Majid Visits al-Basrah Defense, Naval Force

JN2909191593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister, today visited the Defense Forces Command of the City of Cities [al-Basrah]. The minister listened to a detailed explanation, by the fighter staff brigadier general commander of the Defense Forces of the City of Cities, about the tasks assigned to the units to enhance security and stability in the al-Basrah Governorate.

The fighter defense minister was acquainted with the stages of the training. He underscored the importance of introducing special training, of all forms and types, as part of the annual training bulletin in order to prepare strong fighters who can carry out their duties in a distinguished, professional manner.

The meeting was attended by Latif Mahal Humud, al-Basrah governor; the comrade secretaries of the al-Basrah Military and Civilian Branches and Dhi Qar; the members of the al-Basrah Command Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and the fighter commanders of the al-Qadisiyah Forces, the Naval Force, and the divisions operating within the sector.

During the visit, the defense minister inaugurated a building for the command. The comrade members of the Iraq Command of the Party, Kamil Yasin Rashid, deputy secretary of the Military Office, and Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, official in charge of the al-Basrah and Dhi Qar governorates, attended the inauguration ceremony.

Fighter Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid also visited the Naval Force Command today. He listened to a briefing from the staff major general commander of the Naval Force on the tasks of the naval units and their ongoing tactical training.

The staff defense minister said that the process of building up [fighters] is based on the high moral and national preparedness of fighters. This requires preparing a military man in the right way so he will use his equipment and weaponry effectively and correctly in defense of great Iraq.

The staff defense minister stressed that the sons of the Armed Forces have great, absolute faith in their great people and struggler leader President Saddam Husayn and in our struggling party, the vanguard of the Arab nation. This is the path of strugglers who believe in the victorious march of glorious Iraq.

Foreign Minister Meets Brazilian Counterpart at UN

JN2909121093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf began a series of meetings with Arab and foreign ministers attending the meetings of the 48th UN General Assembly [UNGA] session in New York yesterday evening. The correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY said that the foreign minister met with Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs Celso Amorim yesterday evening. Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations, attended. The minister explained to his Brazilian counterpart the latest developments pertaining to the relationship between Iraq and the United Nations.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf affirmed to his Brazilian counterpart the need to urge the UN Security Council to honor its commitments toward Iraq, as enshrined in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, particularly since Iraq has honored its commitments, as provided for in the aforementioned resolution. The two ministers also discussed Iraqi-Brazilian ties as well as the most important topics listed on the agenda of the 48th UNGA session and the positions of Third World nations toward them.

Meets Swedish Minister

JN3009060193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Swedish Foreign Minister Mrs. (?Suslo Wagi) has voiced her government's gratitude for the government and people of Iraq for releasing the three Swedish prisoners. The statements came during a meeting today between Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and Mrs. Wagi at the United Nations.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in New York has reported that the foreign minister discussed with Mrs. Wagi issues related to bilateral ties.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf later met with Alexandr Vondra, first deputy foreign minister in the Czech Republic. They discussed means to improve bilateral ties and subjects on the agenda of the UN General Assembly's 48th session.

Aid Workers Urged To Cooperate With Kurdish Security

JN2909170093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Statement by the General Security Department of the government of Iraqi Kurdistan issued on 25 September 1993; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The General Security [atayish] Department in the Kurdistan region is aware of the security threats faced by

international relief workers and nongovernmental foreign employees who are working to extend humanitarian assistance to the besieged people of Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Iraqi security forces have carried out devious attempts to hinder and foil the humanitarian aid program to the inhabitants. Cowardly terrorist attack have been mounted against the employees, vehicles, and centers of humanitarian international organizations in Kurdish governorates. The region's security apparatus, atayish, has reached the conclusion that most of the attacks thus far have been implemented by inhabitants of the region acting as agents of the Iraqi regime.

After investigations by the region's security department, a group of these agents were arrested and they appeared before the courts. These agents admitted that they had been given instructions and sent to the region by Iraqi security officials to attack the employees and facilities of international nongovernmental organizations as well as Kurdish leaders and parliamentarians and the utility projects in the region. They were provided with weapons, explosives, and money by Iraqi security authorities.

The aim of this terrorist policy is to intimidate the members of the relief organizations to induce them to leave the region and rob the Kurds of the very urgent assistance they are offering, undermining the people's morale. This policy is also aimed at denying the Kurds the peace of mind provided by the international humanitarian organizations, whose presence constitutes a mechanism of monitoring the Iraqi regime's human rights violations.

This statement is not intended to heighten fear or create a state of apprehension among international relief workers. This statement is an appeal to the foreign organizations operating in the region to contact the region's security department so that their security needs and requirements can be examined and so that we can provide them with the necessary protection and guidance.

As a responsible department in the Kurdistan region's administration, we feel that it is our duty to provide the necessary security protection in case we are directly asked to do so. The department will be able to explain the security situation.

Through joint cooperation with foreign organizations, we would be able to heighten the sense of security and take the necessary precautionary measures. We believe that through our joint work to overcome security challenges, we will be able to provide better protection. We can state with confidence that it is possible to neutralize the security threats faced by the members of the international assistance family in Iraqi Kurdistan.

[Signed] The General Atayish Department in the Kurdistan Region
[Dated] 25 September 1993

Rabin on Unity Government, PLO Accord, Syria

TA2909204993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Sep 93 p 13

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Moti Bassok and Daniyel Bloch in Rabin's office on 27 September]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [DAVAR] Do you take the talk of Likud Knesset members about their party joining the government seriously?

[Rabin] If you are talking about their five conditions, I do not need the Likud to fulfill them. I am opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan and to "the right of return." The "agreement of principles" we signed makes no mention whatsoever of "the right of return," and that is no mere coincidence. As for Jerusalem's unity, an agreement has been reached with an Arab partner, although it is only an interim arrangement in which it agrees that Jerusalem will be under Israeli rule during the duration of the arrangement and that the Palestinian body that will administer the territories during this period will have no influence over Jerusalem. As for responsibility for the security of the Israeli settlers in the territories, Israel remains in charge of external security in the territories. The last item is strengthening settlements. The fact is that we made an agreement that does not stipulate the uprooting of even one settlement. These five positions are included in Labor's election platform. I am not dealing with coalitions at the moment, other than to keep the current one, because I do not believe that in its present position the Likud is prepared to regard the PLO as a partner and to accept the "agreement of principles." Therefore, in the foreseeable future and as long as we have not begun implementing the agreement, I see no reason to set up a "national unity" government. As for the more distant future, I suggest that we do not rule out any possibility a priori. [passage omitted]

[DAVAR] How do you make sure that the autonomy does not become a Palestinian state?

[Rabin] Any autonomy entails risks, be it the one proposed by Menahem Begin or the current interim arrangements. We must insist on our positions. The moment we made sure in "the document of principles" that Jerusalem will not be included in the self- government authority, that the settlements will stay put, and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will deploy in the territories, and we made sure that all options remain open in the permanent arrangement (the agreement states that "the two parties agree that the outcome of the permanent status negotiations should not be prejudiced or preempted by agreements reached for the interim period"), we did the maximum we could in anticipation of the deliberations on the permanent arrangement.

[DAVAR] 'Arafat says that a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital will be established within three years.

[Rabin] As the late Levi Eshkol used to say: "So he says." We say: Jerusalem will always remain united under Israel's sovereignty. We are against a Palestinian state between us and Jordan. Our agreement pertains only to the interim arrangements. We knew from the outset that we disagree about the nature and character of the permanent arrangement.

[DAVAR] How do you conceive the permanent arrangement?

[Rabin] As a combination between two states, Israel and Jordan, and a Palestinian entity that is less than a state. Such a combination requires the agreement of both Jordan and the Palestinians. We will have to see how the integration between the two states and the Palestinian entity that is less than a state but is part of this combination will work.

[DAVAR] Are you talking about a confederation?

[Rabin] I am not. A confederation is a union between independent states, and we must be careful about using such language. That is why I do not use a specific term to define the idea I am proposing.

[DAVAR] What will be the capital of the Palestinian entity?

[Rabin] Jericho, Nabulus—whatever they want. It is their problem.

[DAVAR] Do you foresee the possibility of not uprooting any settlement in the framework of the permanent arrangement?

[Rabin] I aspire to coexistence.

[DAVAR] You had a long talk with President Clinton at the White House. Are any new understandings expected between Israel and the United States in the wake of the agreements with the Palestinians?

[Rabin] Yes. In our upcoming meeting in November we will raise a few problems in the security sphere pertaining to the strengthening of the IDF. Clinton himself had at one time proposed raising the level of strategic cooperation. Of course, we will discuss ways to cooperate in the development of projects, to continue the development and to demonstrate the technological ability of, say, the Arrow project, and other areas. Nevertheless, one must bear in mind that the U.S. defense budget is undergoing cutbacks. For example, the number of naval vessels has been reduced by 35 to 40 percent, orders from defense industries have been considerably slashed, military bases in the United States and perhaps overseas are being closed down, and there is also talk of cutting the size of the armed forces. This will make things harder, of course. We are interested in the continued U.S. commitment to grant Israel $3 billion in aid every year and go on getting the U.S. Government guarantees to underwrite loans for immigrant absorption and development. We may bring up the possibility of using those loans for other expenditures.

[DAVAR] How much importance and urgency do you now attach to the negotiations with Syria?

[Rabin] I think that negotiations with any Arab country are important, but in my view the key now lies in the implementation of the "declaration of principles." If it takes off on the right foot—I am talking about the first six to eight months—I will regard it as creating an atmosphere conducive to progress in other spheres as well. Having said that, I would like to make two points: To date, the world believed, rightly or wrongly, that the Palestinian problem was the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Here we have the first agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, an open agreement in which it is written that we recognize the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, albeit not the sole one, and that we will try to solve the problem together. I would expect the Arab world to react positively, not just with words but with deeds: on the Arab boycott; to see an improvement in relations with Arab countries which had to date had secret or overt—albeit not formal—ties with us; to improve relations with countries that refused to have relations with us, not even secret ones.

Secondly, I do not expect President al-Asad to emulate the step that President al-Sadat made when he came to Jerusalem. Israel is a democratic state. I am not the only one who needs to be persuaded that somebody wants peace, he must persuade the Israeli public. However, I would expect him not to allow Syrian territory to be used for unrelenting incitement and operations by 10 Palestinian terrorist organizations that form the rejectionist front to peace, to peace negotiations, and to an agreement with the PLO. I would expect him to allow the Lebanese Government to deal with Hizballah, whose activities against the security zone are designed to disrupt the peace process. It makes you wonder: Does he really want peace? If he does, let him not stand in the way of the PLO and Israel to the implementation of the agreement. Otherwise, it makes one wonder whether he truly wants peace or merely wants to get back the Golan Heights.

[DAVAR] One gets the impression that since the agreement with the PLO you have toughened your attitude toward Syria.

[Rabin] It is not a question of tough stances, but of priorities with regard to implementation. We reached an agreement with the Palestinians. So, in my opinion, the most important thing is to prove that it can be implemented.

[DAVAR] Are you disappointed with Morocco for not having established relations with us and with the Arab states for not lifting the boycott?

[Rabin] I have heard Palestinians, including Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], telling the Arab states that they need not establish relations with Israel before we withdraw from all the territories. If that remains the attitude of the Palestinians in the pan-Arab arena, it will be a disappointment. It is not that they promised otherwise, but I had hoped for goodwill on their part and not just commitments. I believe the process will be slower, but I hope the day will come when Morocco establishes normal relations with Israel and other Arab countries will follow suit.

[DAVAR] Is a dramatic development expected with Tunis soon?

[Rabin] I can only hope. I believe that the fact that Tunis agreed to host the committee on refugee affairs of the multilateral peace talks is an important sign. The fact that its foreign minister, as has been reported in the media, issued a public call in favor of easing—if not canceling—the Arab boycott is important. Both are positive signs. It remains to be seen whether the situation will develop beyond that. The very fact that an Israeli delegation recently went to Tunisia is a big step forward. [passage omitted]

[DAVAR] Is the purpose of your upcoming trip to China to find markets for our military industries?

[Rabin] I do not expect any extraordinary development in the security sphere during my visit to China. Security deals with China have lessened over the years, and their scope today is limited.

[DAVAR] Will you attempt to persuade the Chinese not to supply arms to countries such as Iran and Iraq?

[Rabin] Israel's current stature and position notwithstanding, I am aware of our limitations. I would like to attain more understanding about what is happening in the Middle East and where the sources of danger—not just to Israel—lie. The wave of Islamic fundamentalism spurred by Iran is sweeping the entire region, from Algeria, North Africa, and Sudan to Lebanon and the Palestinians, and I do not know where it will reach tomorrow. It threatens the entire structure of the Middle East. The developments encouraged by Iran must be prevented. We must attain a comprehensive outlook of all that jeopardizes stability and peace in the Middle East.

Comments on Future Palestinian Economy

TA2809143793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has called on Arab countries and those European countries that have always contended that the Palestinians are at the root of the Middle East problem, to extend a hand to Israel, develop ties with it, and act to annul the economic boycott.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv further reports that Mr. Rabin said Israel should aim for the economic success of the Palestinian establishment in the territories. Such success would mean security for Israel, he said.

Replying to a question concerning the linkage between the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and Israel's POW's and MIA's, Rabin said that as far as we know, Ron Arad and the others are being held by radical, peace-opposing elements, including Iran, and not by the Palestinians.

Poll Shows Increased Support for Labor Party

TA2909165693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Sep 93 p 2

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[Text] Question: Were elections to the Knesset held today, which party would you vote for? (The findings are quoted in Knesset seats)

Party	Current Poll	1992 Election Results
Labor	49	44
Likud	33	32
Meretz	8	12
Tzomet	8	8
Moledet	2	3
National Religious Party	6	6
Agudat Yisra'el	4	4
SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]	5	6
Arab parties	5	5

The poll was conducted on Monday, 27 September, among 513 respondents who constitute a representative sample of Israel's adult Jewish population, excluding kibbutzim and Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, the forecast takes into account voting trends of sectors not included in the poll.

Question: Who is best suited today to be the prime minister? (The results are quoted in percentage points)

Yitzhaq Rabin	48
Binyamin Netanyahu	35
Both the same	4
Neither	11
Did not reply	2

IDF, Shin Bet Capture Black Panther Leader, Squad

TA2909161493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Excerpts] The Shin Bet and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have apprehended Ahmad 'Awwad al-Hikmal, one of the most prominent wanted men in Judaea and Samaria, and the Black Panther squad operating in the Janin area which he headed. This Fatah squad was considered one of the most violent squads operating in the area in the last few years. Al-Hikmal, from Qabatiyah, was responsible for the murder of the soldier Yoram Kohen two years ago, murdered some 20 Arabs suspected of collaborating with Israel, and carried out attacks on security troops. He ran a vast network of activists and informers in the Janin District and, together with other members of his squad, he intimidated and terrorized local inhabitants to obtain their collaboration. The other squad members, all of them inhabitants of Qabatiyah, took part in the murder of many locals suspected of collaborating with the authorities and carried out attacks against IDF troops. [passage omitted]

An ITIM correspondent reports that leading Palestinians in the territories summoned a news conference in East Jerusalem at noon today in which they made serious allegations against Israel and the IDF, which, as they put it, called on the Palestinians to lay down their arms but at the same time went ahead with their operations to apprehend wanted men. Sari Nusaybah and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad noted that this was the first operation against wanted men following the signing of the agreement with the PLO and 'Arafat's call to cease terrorist attacks.

PLO Protests Qabatiyah Operation

TA2909191093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinian leaders today protested the operations to capture wanted men in Qabatiyah. According to them, this represents a deviation from the agreements with Israel. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

Yasir 'Arafat was notified early this morning about the operation initiated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Shin Bet to capture wanted men in Qabatiyah. 'Arafat was furious. He phoned his adviser Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi in Jerusalem and ordered him to lodge a protest. Al-Tibi called Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in New York and told him this was a clear violation of the spirit of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. Al-Tibi argued that there is an unwritten understanding whereby Fatah and PLO wanted men will no longer be persecuted and will be left alone until they work out an arrangement with their self-government soon. He reminded Peres that 'Arafat had publicly ordered Black Panther and the Fatah Hawks to cease their operations against Israelis, and that they had complied.

In a news conference in East Jerusalem, advisers to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks demanded the release of the detainees and the lifting of the curfew which had been clamped on Qabatiyah.

[Begin Sari Nusaybah recording, in English] Fatah has now decided to stop using its arms against Israel. Israel must likewise stop using its arms, stop following, pursuing these soldiers. And, at this moment, the five people that were arrested must be treated as prisoners of war and they must be handed over to the Palestinian authority, to the Fatah leadership. [end recording]

It should be pointed out that this is the first official PLO protest of sorts to the Israeli Government in the wake of the mutual agreement. Unofficially, sources in the defense establishment say that nowhere in the agreement

is there an Israeli commitment to stop looking for wanted men, particularly not men whose hands are tainted with Palestinian or Israeli blood. For the time being, the sources say, Israeli law must be respected in all the territories, just as the commitments in the agreement with the PLO must be honored.

In the wake of the agreement, there have recently been numerous reports about the imminent release, as it were, of thousands of Palestinian prisoners. Well, Israeli sources assert, there is no discussion or commitment to that effect at this point. The PLO will be able to raise such a demand in the detailed negotiations that will open next month and will last for several months. Nevertheless, thousands of prisoners with lesser records may very well be released in the not too distant future, but in any event, each case will be assessed on its own merit, the sources say.

Foreign Ministry Rejects Georgian Request for Weapons

TA2909122393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Sep 93 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Israel has recently rejected several Georgian requests to purchase weapons and military equipment.

The request was relayed to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem and to other elements, official and unofficial, by very senior figures in Tbilisi.

The Foreign Ministry found it hard to reach a decision on this issue because the current Georgian regime is considered pro-Israeli. In the end, it was decided to reject the request in order not to harm Israel's sensitive relations with Russia. The recommendation was relayed to the other Israeli elements involved.

King, al-Asad Discuss Arab, Regional Issues

JN2909182893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this evening.

The two leaders exchanged views on the current Arab situation, regional issues, and the latest developments of the peace process. They also reviewed the challenges posed to the nation and ways to enhance the fraternal relations between the two countries in order to confront challenges for the sake of a bright and honorable Arab future.

Al-Majali on Elections, PLO-Israel Agreement

NC2909200293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1750 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali in Amman by Shadiyah Riyad in Cairo, on "The Talking Newspaper" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Riyad] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali: One had the impression that the Jordanian Council of Ministers was willing to postpone the parliamentary elections so that they would not turn into a vote on the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. Now that you have decided to hold the elections on their scheduled date, how do you explain the decision?

[Al-Majali] I would like to say first that the Council of Ministers never made a postponement decision. But the Council always notices what the public thinks about this or any issue. We did not make a decision on postponement or nonpostponement. But the Council reviews the feelings of people in the street on these issues. Of course, the state's position is firm and strong. Jordan's position has never been weak. The issue pertains to Jordanian sovereignty, which stems from the country's interests and constant principles. There was no decision for postponement. But the media and the press want to blow things out of their true proportions.

[Riyad] Will the Palestinian refugees be allowed to vote in both Jordanian and Palestinian elections?

[Al-Majali] Every Jordanian living on Jordanian territory and registered to vote is entitled to vote. We have neither the means nor the desire to deny these people this right. If another voting takes place, then we will act according to the situation.

[Riyad] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, in his recent statements His Majesty King Husayn renewed Jordan's support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. But how far will Jordan go in its support for the agreement and cooperation with the Palestinians to make it a success?

[Al-Majali] Since the Rabat Arab summit, Jordan has been a leading country in promoting the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. As usual, Jordan adhered to that, and this was one of the most important factors that helped the PLO obtain recognition as a legitimate leadership. We support the independent Palestinian decision and believe that the Palestinians are free to do what they like. We support them with all our capabilities.

[Riyad] Will the international backing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the desire to support it financially and boost the Palestinian economy reflect positively on Jordan's economy?

[Al-Majali] What pleases the Palestinians pleases us. If their economic conditions improve, this, naturally, will reflect positively on the conditions in Jordan. We support any economic or political progress our Palestinian brothers can make.

[Riyad] Do you consider the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on the agenda a major achievement that may lead to a solution?

[Al-Majali] This agreement was achieved in the seventh round of negotiations, but we did not announce or sign it because we always believe in a comprehensive solution and in the need for the other Arab tracks, especially the Palestinian track, to make progress. When we became sure that the Palestinian track had made progress, we announced the agreement. The agenda contains the basics of the negotiations. It is not a nominal one; it has content. In the next round of talks we will discuss every subject mentioned in the agenda.

[Riyad] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, my last question is this: We in Egypt are heading toward an important stage as the date for the referendum on President Mubarak's nomination for a third term in office approaches. What does Jordan want from President Mubarak in the next stage as far as the peace process is concerned?

[Al-Majali] We wish him success, and we hope he will always continue to support the peace process. He has played a big role there, and we hope that this will continue. Arab cooperation and solidarity toward peace make this peace successful and guarantee Arab rights.

[Riyad] Thank you.

[Al-Majali] Thank you.

Importance of Regional Development Viewed

JN2909124993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Sep 93 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Development Is a Comprehensive Issue"]

[Text] The world community now realizes that peace cannot be established in the Middle East if the world does not provide its people with the means and conditions for a decent life. When the world community pauses at this fact, it will certainly realize that Jordan plays a distinguished role that cannot be played by any other party. No one side can bear the consequences of this role or offer sacrifices for

its sake. For 45 years, this country has opened its doors to immigrant brothers and those displaced from their homelands. It received one migration wave after another with an efficieny that could not be matched by any major country or even a superpower. Jordan did not for a moment stop believing that the human community and its nations would appreciate and support the role it is playing. Here, we would like to recall the 1948 tragedy when the Palestinians were uprooted from their homes, and the Jordanians opened their arms and shared with them the pains of coercion, poverty, aggression and many other pains. Then came the 1967 tragedy; and later, the Gulf crisis brought a third tragedy that could have been the last straw for bigger countries with greater resources and capabilities. However, we contained these crises and tackled them with national, pan-Arab, and human affiliation that can only be found in countries rich with values and principles.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan is going to Washington to convey a message from His Majesty King Husayn to the U.S. President and to address the UN General Assembly on behalf of Jordan. He will also be close to the meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund as well as the development conference the United States has called for to entrench peace in the region and protect it by providing the means and conditions for a decent life. His highness will convey Jordan's right to tell the world community that it is important that development in the Middle East be comprehensive. Any development that does not take this fact into consideration will give many of the region's peoples the feeling that the world community is punishing them for what they endured and disregarding what they offered, faced, and paid for. Moreover, they will feel that the peace they sought was a punishment for them and not the fruits of a long endeavor and dear sacrifices. Perhaps the seriousness of ignoring the fact that development is a regional issue will place the region in a situation that is more dangerous, darker, and tougher than that which prevailed thoughout the years of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We hope that the world community, the entire human community, and all those who are concerned about a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East are aware of the importance of supporting the right of all the region's people to the benefits of peace because all these people have paid the price of wars and destruction. We are confident that His Highness Crown Prince Hasan will clarify matters during his talks with the U.S. Administration, before the UN General Assembly, and during his meetings with political and intellectual figures and leaderships, and the media. Jordan, which has always been appreciated and respected by the world community for shouldering its responsibilities toward peace and stability and for its irreversible democratic march, will be and should be present when the region starts to bear some of the fruits of peace after it has paid dearly the cost of wars and their tragic consequences.

Comprehensive Peace Before Talk of Lifting Boycott

JN3009103093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Sep 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "No To Ending the Arab Boycott of Israel"]

[Text] It seems that Israel has begun a very clever move toward ending the Arab economic, trade, and cultural boycott, using the unlimited U.S. support and differences in the Arab ranks to its advantage.

Israel considers ending the Arab boycott one of the requisites of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and one of the results implied by this agreement.

What is noteworthy is that after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Rabin and his government continued to make daily statements that united Jerusalem will remain Israel's eternal capital. To substantiate this, Israel sought to wrest an agreement from the Palestinian president in Tunis to sign the joint lists for municipal elections in the holy city.

It is also noteworthy that Israel wants to profit from a peace that has not yet been achieved on any of the tracks or any of the four Arab fronts. Israel is in a hurry to achieve its economic and trade designs in the Arab region without taking one practical step toward peace. It is prevaricating and maneuvering in the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track and trying to ignore or suspend the requisites of a settlement on the Syrian front. Israel rejects the return of Palestinian evacuees and refugees to their homeland. It also rejects the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and stresses that Palestinian self-rule should remain limited. Despite all this, Israel is demanding that the doors of the Arab region be opened to its economic and trade designs in the wide Arab consumer market.

From this premise, the Arab countries should refuse even to discuss ending their economic and trade boycott of Israel before reaching a comprehensive peace on all fronts, including the Syrian front, and securing the return of Palestinian refugees and evacuees to their homeland.

Some Arab circles should also immediately stop talking about ending the boycott of Israel. Mere talk on this level could tempt Israel to persist with its hardline stands and weaken the Arab negotiating cards.

Al-Hasan Meets Counterparts in New York

JN2909163593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 48th session in New York, Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, the [Jordanian] minister of state for foreign affairs, has met with the foreign ministers of Tunisia, the Netherlands, Spain, Djibouti, Turkey, and Venezuela.

Al-Hasan explained Jordan's consistent position on peace and its definite commitment to the peace process. He also reviewed recent developments, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the declaration of the joint Jordanian-Israeli agenda.

The minister of state recalled Jordan's positions and efforts and His Majesty King Husayn's persistent endeavors to promote the peace process and support the Palestinian people's just cause in order to reach a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. He also noted the difficulties Jordan is facing as a result of both its positive contributions and its commitment to the peace process. Al-Hasan reviewed the democratic march, political pluralism, and respect for human rights in Jordan.

For their part, the ministers lauded the efforts His Majesty King Husayn is exerting and Jordan's effective and pivotal role in the peace process. They stressed the need to extend the necessary support and aid to Jordan to enable it to play this role. During these meetings, Jordan's bilateral relations with these states were also discussed.

In another development, al-Hasan met with (Samuel Anistali), the new UN General Assembly president and congratulated him on assuming this fine international post. He also expressed Jordan's readiness to extend support, assistance, and a positive contribution to all UN tasks.

For his part, (Anistali) hailed the efforts of His Majesty King Husayn in his capacity as a primary force in promoting regional peace efforts. He also commended Jordan's positive contributions on the international level.

Court Holds Session on Mu'tah University Plot Case

JN2909202093 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Amman, 29 Sep (PETRA)—The State Security Court held its seventh session today under Judge Colonel Hafiz Amin to look into the case of the Islamic Liberation [al-Tahrir] Party.

At the outset, the court's prosecutor general read out testimony from eight defendants that was given in his presence. The testimony showed that some defendants were party members while others denied party membership. It also showed the scenarios worked out by the defendants to implement their plan.

The testimony also explained how the defendants were organized, the ways they communicated with one another, and how the party recruited some of them.

Afterward, the defense lawyers pointed out that their clients retracted this testimony and reserved the right to defend themselves against it. The defendants thus indicated that the testimony was illegally and unwillingly obtained.

The defense lawyers also appealed to the court to underline its previous ruling, which banned journalists and media from publishing this testimony because it became part of the minutes.

Major Muhannad Hijazi, the court's prosecutor general, then requested that the session be adjourned in order to present further evidence. Presiding Judge Colonel Hafiz Amin decided to adjourn the session, which will resume Saturday morning.

Prime Minister al-Hariri Views Talks With Clinton

NC2909185793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stated that intensive diplomatic moves by the United States in the Middle East and the continuation of the bilateral peace talks in Washington are the best guarantees for boosting the peace process. In a statement to AFP in New York today, he noted that he asked President Clinton to send Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East as quickly as possible to hold talks with leaders of Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. He said that he did not receive a clear response to his proposal on intensifying U.S. diplomatic moves in the region. He pointed out, however, that President Clinton and Secretary Christopher will consider his proposal.

Al-Hariri said that he expects the bilateral negotiations to resume in Washington soon but ruled out convening a meeting now on the level of the Israeli, Syrian, and Lebanese foreign ministers, who are currently in the United States.

Al-Hariri said: My impression after meeting with President Clinton is that he is convinced that peace is not possible without Syria. He noted that Washington did not ask Lebanon to deploy a military force in the south capable of preventing Hizballah operations. He said that this is an Israeli demand that is not welcomed by Damascus.

Al-Hariri said: I am returning to Lebanon after obtaining promises from President Clinton that he will use his political weight to achieve peace in the region, which is a significant achievement.

Al-Hariri added that he expected peace talks to resume rapidly in Washington, but ruled out the possibility in the near future of a meeting of foreign ministers from Israel, Lebanon and Syria, who are currently in the United States.

The prime minister stressed that the interest the United States showed toward Lebanon in the meetings should not be interpreted as a sign that Washington wants to separate the Israeli-Lebanese talks from the Israeli-Syrian talks.

Israel has said that its differences with Lebanon could be worked out rapidly, if it were not for Syrian pressure holding the Lebanese back.

"The biggest problem is to convince the Americans that if they are truly looking for peace in the region, it must be a global peace with the Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians and Jordanians—with everyone," al-Hariri said.

The prime minister added that the United States had not asked Lebanon to deploy a force in southern Lebanon capable of preventing Hizballah from attacking Israeli forces and civilians.

Israel has demanded this, but the proposal has met opposition in Syria.

"The most important thing now is the peace process (in Washington) ... Neither Lebanon nor Syria will carry out secret talks," al-Hariri said, referring to accord worked out in secret between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Norway.

Urges U.S. Shuttle Diplomacy

NC2909210293 Paris AFP in English 1926 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] United Nations, Sept 29 (AFP)—U.S. shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East and the continuation of bilateral talks in Washington are the best ways to move forward the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Lebanon's prime minister said Wednesday [29 September].

Speaking to AFP Wednesday at U.N. headquarters in New York, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said he urged U.S President Bill Clinton to send Secretary of State Warren Christopher quickly to the Middle East to begin a diplomatic shuttle between Israel, Lebanon and Syria.

Al-Hariri met with Clinton for 40 minutes Monday here outside the scope of the U.N. General Assembly meeting. He also met with Edward Djerejian, deputy secretary of near eastern affairs.

The prime minister said he had not received a reply to his proposal from Clinton, but said he thought the president and Christopher would consider it.

Says Israel Wants To Maintain Occupation

NC2909211093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has accused Israel of trying to find excuses to maintain its occupation of Lebanese territory. He said Israel is demanding that the Lebanese Army disarm Lebanese resistance against the occupation and is trying to push the government into a confrontation with the resistance while it still occupies Lebanese territory.

Speaking to an American television station, al-Hariri said that Israel, while making no pledge to withdraw, wants to remain on the offensive. This, he added, has never happened in the history of humanity. The prime minister stressed that the Lebanese Army is ready to maintain security in the south but Israel has to withdraw first. However, he stressed that Israel's withdrawal from the south is possible, with the Lebanese Army controlling the area and guaranteeing its security.

Meets Chinese, French Officials 28 Sep

NC2809195693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri began his activities in New York today with a meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Qian Qichen. The Chinese official said after the meeting that he and al-Hariri discussed peace in Lebanon after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and commercial and economic relations between China and Lebanon.

Al-Hariri then met with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. [passage omitted]

The French foreign minister said after the meeting that his country's government is determined to help in the reconstruction of Lebanon. He stressed that France will try hard to convince its EC allies to participate in the reconstruction process which, he said, seems basic for achieving balance and establishing peace in the region.

U.S. Stance Said Unchanged After Israel-PLO Deal

PM2909140093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 93 p 13

['Abd-al-Wahhab Badrakhan article: "Two U.S. Messages"]

[Text] U.S. officials are these days eager to prove there is a new phase in the Middle East—new in its political climate, factors, and language. They are especially eager to emphasize their seriousness in working to make the Palestinian-Israeli agreement a success. This is why they describe the agreement as a prelude to "a comprehensive solution," but "comprehensive" is based on their view, which is identical to the Israeli view. That is, the comprehensive solution is nothing but a group of separate solutions. The separate Egyptian-Israeli peace was a necessary first step. Then came the Palestinian-Israeli agreement as a second step needed to consolidate the move toward that "comprehensive solution." After the recent agreement there remains only one option for Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon.

A U.S. official working among those "cooking up" the peace process sums up Washington's present orientation in two points: The first is to make the Israeli-PLO agreement a success, and the second is to consider this agreement a step toward a comprehensive solution. His proof of the first orientation is its tireless work to finance the implementation of the Palestinian self-rule procedures, which will change the life of Palestinians inside the occupied territories by ending the occupation, reviving the economy, and establishing channels and establishments for public services. While the donor-states conference Washington wants to hold on 1 October is, in practice, aimed at securing this financing, the U.S. official is eager to say that this conference "is going to be held to bolster not the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, but peace in the Middle East." He stresses that this conference "represents a foundation for bolstering a comprehensive peace and encouraging the other parties to reach similar agreements."

The U.S. official, with whom I met in his office in Washington, says that he is sending these words as a direct message to the other parties, since "Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon should not feel that the donor-states conference is aimed against them or that it is seeking to ignore them."

Since the signing ceremony at the White House, which was attended by the Palestinian president and the Israeli prime minister, and since the two men shook hands two weeks ago under the U.S. President's sponsorship, it seems as though Washington is about to absorb the "positive shock" fully by translating it into an urgent working program. More importantly, it seems to be about to completely forget that it is now sponsoring an agreement it did not make itself but which was made through secret negotiations between the two parties. So "we played no role in it." And: "Some important people say they knew of what was happening in Oslo. It is untrue." U.S. officials indirectly admit they would not have been able in any way to include the PLO in the peace process. Only Israel could, and did, thus sparing the U.S. Administration embarrassment in the future.

There is another message which the U.S. official wanted to address to all the Arabs this time: "Every Arab official used to tell us persistently that the Palestinian issue is the essence and crux of the problem in the Middle East and that we must hold a dialogue with the PLO and conclude an agreement with it. The time has come for us to tell the Arabs that this agreement has been concluded and all they have to do is support it." How? "By ending the boycott, because if they continue the boycott, they will harm the Palestinians and the PLO itself." So the U.S. language after the signing and the handshake is linked to the language that existed before, without taking into consideration that the new phase is still at the beginning and that there are numerous problems and difficulties which will need some kind of "pressure" on Israel, but this pressure is out of the question.

Amal Claims Attack on Israeli-SLA Patrol 29 Sep

NC2909120693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] The Amal Movement claimed responsibility for the detonation of an explosive charge as a joint Israeli-South Lebanese Army was traveling on 'Alman-al-Shumariyah road at 1100 today. According to a statement issued by the Movement, the blast destroyed a tank and left a number of the patrol's personnel dead or wounded. The statement adds that the operation marks the fifth anniversary of the martyrdom of Dawud Dawud. The statement says that the Israelis shelled the area after the attack and that two Israeli helicopters overflew the area and took part in the search operations.

'Secret Contacts' With Israel Said Under Way

JN2909132893 Amman AL-BA'TH in Arabic 28 Sep 93 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] AL-BA'TH has learned that secret contacts are under way in Vienna to reach an agreement on a declaration of principles between Syria and the Zionist entity under the sponsorship of the United States.

AL-BA'TH has also learned that these talks are being held under the supervision of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who was asked by President Bill Clinton to intervene immediately. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar': No Rush for Peace With Israelis

PM2909144193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Sep 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Shar': We Are in No Rush, Nor Do We Need a Norwegian Role"]

[Text] New York, AL-HAYAH—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has told AL-HAYAH that Syria is in no rush as regards the Syrian-Israeli track in the bilateral peace negotiations, nor does it need an intermediary's role along the lines of the role played by Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst.

Al-Shar' met with Holst on the sidelines of the opening of the UN General Assembly session. He said: "I asked him to mention details of the secret Palestinian-Israeli meetings." He added: "I asked him detailed questions about the meetings and contacts which began at the end of last year and took a serious turn in May."

Asked whether the Norwegian minister has any role in reactivating the Syrian-Israeli track, al-Shar' told AL-HAYAH: "We do not need such a role. There is the Madrid formula, and there are the talks in Washington. We adhere to the foundations of the Madrid process, the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, and full withdrawal from the Golan."

He reiterated Syria's commitment to the peace process. However, he said: "We are in no rush." He also said: "We are committed to the peace process and insist on complete withdrawal, but we will not accept that rounds of negotiations be held just for the sake of negotiation."

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements that he wanted to "digest" the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, al-Shar' said: "He swallowed up Palestine, swallowed up a big piece of the Palestinian rights, which is why he cannot digest and absorb it."

The Syrian minister stressed that peace in the Middle East region is not possible without Syria's participation. He also said: "All people and politicians in the world, including Holst, say it is not possible."

Holst has told AL-HAYAH that the Syrian minister had explained the latest developments in his country's position in a "methodical" manner. He added: "We held very good talks on various ways of interpreting the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, he understood it, and we explained our positions in this connection to one another."

He pointed out that al-Shar' expressed "his concern and interest that there should be guarantees that a comprehensive solution would be achieved, and we all share this view. The dialogue should continue with a view to achieving" a comprehensive solution.

He emphasized that the talks "did not focus on" discussing [the possibility of] public or secret Syrian-Israeli meetings. He expressed his concern over the possibility of slowness on the Syrian-Israeli track and Syria's isolation from the process. He added: "We would like to make progress. We would like the (Palestinian-Israeli) agreement to generate progress on the other tracks. That is what I told him. I believe it could be dangerous if the opposite happens."

Denies U.S. Pressure

JN3009065493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] New York—In an interview with the correspondent of Radio London in New York last night, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' denied that there is any U.S. pressure on Syria over the peace process. He added: We have not sensed any U.S. pressure at all in this regard.

Asked whether there is a U.S. position expressed by President Bill Clinton that peace can be achieved without Syria, al-Shar' said: I would like to take this opportunity to say that the news report circulated to this effect is groundless. Moreover, the U.S. Administration denied this report which was published by a London-based Arabic newspaper, to us, and also to the Lebanese delegation.

The foreign minister added: With respect to Israel, we do not trust its intentions at all. We believe that Israel, after endorsing the agreement with the Palestinians, is attempting to evade the continuation of the peace process and also a comprehensive solution. The statements made by Israeli officials clearly show that they are advancing various pretexts in this regard, such as their need for time to digest the Palestinian-Israeli accord. This is true for wars, not for peace. Waging war on various fronts is difficult. Any country poised for war does not want to have war on various fronts. As for peace, any progress on any track should prompt those concerned to continue with the peace efforts quickly on other tracks, or fronts.

When asked whether Syria is in no rush, al-Shar' said: This is true. This means that we will not beg for peace. We are committed to just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions, and within the context of the Madrid formula. The imposition of any other terms not agreed upon for the Madrid conference and outside the realm of international legitimacy is unacceptable to us.

Al-Shar' added: If rush would result in a renunciation of our rights, or conceding a single inch of our occupied territories, I would like to say that we will never have the desire to rush.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that Israel is currently busy with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and is not fully sure whether or not Syria is interested in peace, the foreign minister said: Syria is really interested in peace. It was Syria which paved the way for peace. It is still committed to peace. The Israeli prime minister might have felt that he has swallowed up Palestine, or a large chunk of the Palestinian people's rights, which he cannot digest quickly. However, this does not mean that Syria is not interested in peace, particularly since it is working to achieve comprehensive, just, and honorable peace, which must result in the restoration of the occupied Arab territories.

On whether Syria is optimistic, al-Shar' said: We are optimistic about the future. We are optimistic in terms of the clear position we are espousing. We are also optimistic, because all the world leaders, foreign ministers, and other officials we have been meeting at the United Nations have affirmed that there can be no comprehensive peace without Syria, and that there can be no peace in the region without Syria.

Al-Shar' added: The agreement initialed in Oslo cannot be deemed a peace agreement at all. There are many delusions leaked by the Israelis, particularly the Israeli foreign minister's speech at the United Nations, which was almost poetic. In his speech, the Israeli foreign minister argued that peace has been achieved, expected the emergence of a new Middle East region, and looked forward to normalization. In fact, the true state of affairs is contrary to all this. Peace has not been achieved. Israel has not withdrawn from a single inch of the occupied Arab territories. No peace, not even a little bit of peace, has thus far been achieved.

Concluding the interview, the foreign minister wondered: How then can we be deceived by such statements by Israeli officials?

Meets French, Italian Counterparts

JN2909202593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] New York—On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met yesterday evening with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

They exchanged views on developments in the Middle East and their repercussions on the peace process. Juppe stressed his country's support for the peace process to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region. He emphasized the importance of Syria's role in the peace process, without which comprehensive peace is impossible to achieve.

For his part, al-Shar' asserted Syria's commitment to the peace process to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon.

They also discussed bilateral relations and the importance of enhancing them in all areas.

Al-Shar' also met with Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta. They discussed Middle East developments and the Palestinian-Israeli accord and its repercussions on the peace process.

The two sides stressed the importance of continuing the peace process to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region. They also discussed ways to boost bilateral ties.

Sources: No Peace Without Total Withdrawal

JN2909190593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 gmt 29 sep 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] [Syrian] media circles today said that talk about the possibility of realizing peace in the region without Syria is only a campaign led by Israel with the blessings and support of certain world capitals. The media says no one, no matter who they are, can succeed in establishing peace in the region by bypassing Syria's role in the peace process.

Informed Syrian sources told Monte Carlo today that the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the PLO-Israeli agreement are an internal Palestinian matter in which they do not interfere, and that the Palestinian people are the side with the right to accept or reject the agreement through their institutions, which existed before the agreement and whose differences with Yasir 'Arafat [as heard] have existed for years.

The sources said that President al-Asad has always called for a just and comprehensive peace and that the issue is not that of the Golan alone. Had the Golan been the problem, Syria would have accepted offers in the past to return the whole of the Golan. However, Syria's adherence to the firm pan-Arab stand prompts it to demand a comprehensive solution to the region's problems. Syria does not see such a solution except through Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territory.

On Syria's stand on the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, the informed sources recalled what President al-Asad said on this subject, namely, we do not approve or back, nor do we oppose or support the agreement. The Palestinian people and institutions have the right to approve what they deem to be appropriate. This means, the sources added, that we will not interfere in the agreement's implementation.

Commentary: Israel Not Seeking 'Comprehensive' Peace

JN2909102393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1141 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Those following up the Israeli officials' statements these days note a systematic campaign aimed at isolating Syria and dissociating it from the comprehensive solution formula it is advancing after the Palestinians were singled out through a partial, unilateral solution. Toward this end, the Israeli officials are using their media in Israel and abroad to cast doubt on Syria's peace credibility, as if Israel's credibility is now irrefutable simply because it initialed a partial agreement with the Palestinians—an agreement it is falsely depicting to the world as a historic Middle East peace deal.

We would like to point out that Israel wants to use this agreement, which we say and repeat is open to the unknown and does not, in its present shape, guarantee any of the Palestinian rights recognized by all international charters, norms, and resolutions, as a spearhead to pressure the Arab states—as Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has recently demanded—into ending the state of war and the Arab economic boycott of Israel and canceling or amending all the UN resolutions which condemn or denounce the past inhuman Israeli practices even before Israel embarks on any real and tangible initiative toward peace with the Arabs by ending its occupation of their territories.

In line with the Israeli plan to exploit the Gaza-Jericho agreement in the occupied territories and the Arab and international arenas, and in a bid to prevent the continuation of the peace process according to the frameworks and principles on which it was based for the sake of reaching a just and comprehensive peace, a campaign of skepticism and deception is being launched to distort the credibility of the Syrian search for peace because Syria, through its sincere search for real peace, is more capable of exposing the falsehood of the peace Israel is working for. In other words, Israel believes that in order to cut off access to the attainment of a just and desired peace according to the principles on which the peace process was based, it should level accusations at Syria so that it can continue its march toward a false peace.

To counter this Israeli campaign, it should be reiterated that Israel alone proved right from the beginning of the peace process and throughout the past 11 rounds of talks that it is neither serious nor sincere in its intentions toward peace. The Gaza-Jericho agreement has not added anything to that image, which the world has known well about Israel since the inception of the Madrid conference. In contrast, Syria was sincere in its intention and search for peace after having opened the doors wide for it when it agreed to participate in the Madrid conference. Moreover, it expressed the seriousness of its endeavor on all occasions, especially at the sixth round when it presented a document containing the principles on which a just and comprehensive peace should be based.

The U.S. Administration, through its contacts with the Syrian leadership, may have realized how serious Syria is in its quest for peace and how responsive it was with the role of a full partner adopted by this administration in order to advance the peace process toward the aspired goal. Now that Israel's aim to blow up the peace process has become clear after its request for a period of time to digest the Gaza-Jericho agreement it swallowed and to utilize this time to place all obstacles and impediments in the face of every good effort aimed at advancing peace, the U.S. Administration, in its capacity as a full partner, is required to rob Israel of this opportunity by expediting efforts to reactivate the peace process which was launched upon its own initiative and push this process forward along the right path which will inevitably lead to that comprehensive solution which guarantees the continuity and permanence of peace.

Syria will continue to cling to the option of peace, which it adopted out of conviction. The Israeli campaigns of clamor and deception will not be able to undermine this position; these campaigns will certainly backfire and expose the falsehood of the peace they seek.

Afghanistan

Arsala Meets Uzbek President; PRC, Iranian Ministers

LD3009035793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met with Mr. Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, at UN headquarters. Dr. Rawan Farhadi, ambassador and permanent representative of the Islamic State of Afghanistan at UN, was also present. Talking about issues of interest, the two sides emphasized in the meeting the further development of political, economic, and cultural relations between the neighboring countries of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

According to another report, during meetings with the heads of the delegations of the countries that participated in the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, minister of foreign affairs, met separately with Mr. Qian Qichen, vice premier and minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of China, and Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Issues of interest were discussed, and views were exchanged.

First Deputy Prime Minister Meets Pakistani Envoy

LD2909171293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] First Deputy Prime Minister Qotboddin Helal met this morning with Mr. Amir Usman, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The press department of the Prime Ministry reported that a number of (?cultural) topics were discussed at the meeting, which was held at the Prime Ministry. The Pakistani ambassador promised that (?measures have been taken) concerning the [words indistinct] between the two countries. It was said that Pakistan airlines would resume flights to Kabul and the process of (?transport) of foodstuffs, particularly of wheat, would be accelerated.

On behalf of the Prime Ministry, Helal thanked the Government of Pakistan for its (?assistance) and considered the resumption of Pakistani airlines flights to Kabul another step toward the expansion of friendly relations between the two countries.

Meeting Held To Discuss Improving Kabul Security

LD3009022793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Today a broad session of the security commission, presided over by acting commander of Kabul garrison esteemed Lieutenant General Baba Jan, was held to further improve the security situation in the city of Kabul. Officials of Kabul security organs were present. The BIA military correspondent reports that the session was attended by the esteemed Fahim, head of National Security; Lieutenant General Rahmatollah Raufi, in charge of the northern forces; Brigadier General Gholam Bahaoddin, police commander of Kabul; the esteemed Rahimi, assistant mayor of Kabul; a number of heads of the central departments of National Security; jihadi commanders; and officials of security zones of police.

Beginning the session, esteemed Lt. Gen. Baba Jan, acting commander of Kabul garrison, submitted a report on the activities of the command. After discussion a resolution was passed. In a section of this resolution specific instructions were given to officials about the prevention of chaos and abuse. It said security organs will increase their activities and should make efforts for the prevention of assassinations, explosions, theft, and kidnapping and other disruptive activities. [Passage indistinct] and talks were conducted on the prevention of the movement of armored vehicles and irresponsible armed men and on the increasing activities of security commissions of the wards of Kabul to prevent the construction of homes and buildings without permission, to clean the city of refuse, to prevent the rise in prices of primary goods and [words indistinct] and to clean crowded and main roads. Related organs were assigned to embark vigorously on the alleviation of those problems. [passage indistinct]

Muslim Party Leaders Protest Draft Constitution

LD2909231293 Tehran IRNA in English 2051 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 29, IRNA—A spokesman of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] of Afghanistan said in a telephone contact with IRNA here today that the draft constitution of Afghanistan that does not represent the interests of all groups will have grave consequences.

He said the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan lead by General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, and the National Islamic Front led by Pir Ahmad Gilani have also protested the draft constitution.

The constitution drafted by Afghan Wahhabi Leader 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf and submitted it to the Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, said the spokesman, is based on narrow sectarian lines, and has failed to take into account the various schools of Islamic jurisprudence and ethnic groups dominant in Afghanistan.

India

Government Studying Clinton Reference to Kashmir

BK2909161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] New Delhi has accused Pakistan of making yet another attempt to spread misinformation on the

Kashmir issue by wrongly attributing a report to the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, saying that India still stands by the UN resolution on plebiscite in Kashmir. The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry referred to certain reports in this regard in newspapers published in the Gulf and Pakistani newspapers. He said these reports are totally unmitigated and fabricated. The Government of India has also noted that there have been some comments on the alleged statement by the official spokesman of the Pakistani Foreign Office.

Replying to questions, the spokesman said India is studying the implications of a reference to the Kashmir issue by the U.S. President Mr. Bill Clinton at the United Nations General Assembly.

Minister Reaffirms Policy on Kashmir Talks

BK2809042893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, has reiterated that India is prepared to begin a dialogue with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue as soon as Pakistan stops sponsoring terrorism in Kashmir. He was addressing the Asia Society in New York yesterday. Mr. Dinesh Singh said any attempt by Pakistan to internalize the Kashmir issue will further complicate the problem. Mr. Dinesh Singh said the Simla accord has kept the peace between India and Pakistan for 22 years and provided a forum to settle all bilateral problems between the two countries. During the one-hour speech, the external affairs minister referred to the close relations and similarity between the U.S. and India, the global changes resulting in the end of the Cold War, the importance of liberalised market and economic structure, and the dangers terrorism poses in the world today.

Attempt To Induct 'Militants' Into Kashmir Foiled

BK2809161893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Security forces have foiled yet another Pakistani attempt to induct trained militants into the Kashmir valley. Agencies quoting official sources report that troops guarding the northern borders apprehended one member of a large group of militants trying to sneak into the valley. The other militants made a hasty retreat when one of them was caught.

Sharma Urges Greater Cooperation Against Terrorism

BK2809043493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] India has called for increased global cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Irish president, Mrs. Mary Robinson, in New Delhi, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said the menace of extremist violence and terrorism should be combated in all its manifestations. The president reaffirmed India's deep commitment to the rule of law and the dignity of the individual. Speaking about the traditional Indo-Irish relations, the president expressed the hope that Dublin will play an active role in expanding New Delhi's cooperation with the European Community in the fields of investment, technology, and trade. In her speech, the Irish president, Mrs. Robinson, called for more economic and business contacts between the two countries.

Irish President Leaves Delhi

BK2909090493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] The Irish president, Mrs. Mary Robinson, was given a warm send-off at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning. Speaking to newspersons at the ceremonial departure function, she said her visit has provided a great opportunity to strengthen the traditional bonds between the two countries. Mrs. Mary Robinson will also visit Calcutta, Bangalore, Bombay, and Ahmedabad before she leaves for London on Sunday [3 October] morning.

Security Forces Arrest 48 'Militants' in Manipur

BK2709151493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] In Manipur the security forces arrested 48 underground militants belonging to the outlawed People's Liberation Army from various places during the last four days. An announcement in Imphal said that a number of incriminating documents and propaganda material were also seized from their hideouts.

Editorial Reviews Outcome of Rao's Iran Visit

BK3009102593 Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Sep 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Bridging Misunderstandings"]

[Text] It augurs well for both India and Iran that the summit level talks between Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani cleared some irritants that had been dogging both the countries. Because regardless of diplomatic bonhomie and a convergence of perspectives vis-a-vis central and south-west Asia, there were strains and pulls that accounted for a certain curdling of relations. To recall, there had been occasion for heart-burn when Iran, as member of the Organisation of Islamic Countries, had echoed the familiar Pak- Islamic sentiment of human rights violations in Kashmir. Rao's visit, however (the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 18 years, following Indira Gandhi's 1975 visit), has helped douse, one hopes, such exaggerated fears and misapprehensions that had been stoked to absurd heights by Pakistani propaganda. And Prime Minister Rao did well to dig his heels in on the subject and show a firm disinclination to open his ears to any "outside" suggestions on how to

manage "the plurality of our society". And though not averse to parleying with Pakistan, should it be so inclined, he was unequivocally condemnatory of the cross border terrorism that Pakistan was encouraging and helping foment, both directly and indirectly. More insidiously, by whipping up a comparable minority hysteria among other Islamic countries by over-playing the plight of the Kashmiri Muslims. Mr. Rafsanjani said as much when he remarked that India's relations with other Islamic countries hinged, depended, largely on the alacrity or delay, in solving the problems of the Kashmiri Muslims. Indeed, some local dailies editorialised snidely on Iranian concern following the demolition of the Babri Masjid [mosque]. The influential TEHRAN TIMES though took the more pragmatic stand by talking of the littoral countries in the Indian Ocean, like India and Iran, which had the larger responsibility of keeping the area tension free. Rao's visit has certainly given an Asian dimension to India's foreign policy. Particularly because Iran is the largest political entity in West Asia. And India could profitably loan her engineering and technical expertise for the Iranian oil and natural gas sector. A reciprocity of economic cooperation would provide a tremendous boost to the programme of economic restructuring that both countries were focussing on in their developmental plans. And which could be extended to cooperative ventures in the development of the Central Asian Republics. The thrust would, in time, go even further to include "greater economic, technical and cultural" interaction between developing countries to make them at par, and, therefore, armed with equal bargaining power, with the industrialised nations of the world. The ground prepared, there seems no reason why the two Asian giants cannot realise their dream of preparing a solid phalanx of developing countries to withstand the pressure tactics routinely resorted to by the developed world.

Broker Offers To Disclose Political Payoffs

BK2909035893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Top income tax officials have informed the JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee] probing the security scandal that they have come across two more unaccounted for cash transactions by stock broker Harshad Mehta. Amounting to 25 lakh rupees, these were made in 1991. Briefing reporters, the JPC chairman, Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, said Harshad Mehta had claimed these transactions were politically sensitive. The committee was informed that the broker has offered to disclose to the tax settlement commissioner his controversial dealings, including the so-called politically sensitive cash withdrawals. Mr. Mirdha said the income tax and wealth tax liability of the broker for the past two years is being finalized and prosecution will be launched for failure to submit the tax returns on time. About the Romesh Bhandari episode, the JPC chairman said the government's response on the issue was limited to the investigation of the Enforcement Directorate. He said the committee has therefore decided to call for a full report on all aspects of the alleged role of the Tripura governor in the reported attempt to link BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders with Harshad Mehta in a political payoff.

Next Experimental PSLV Flight To Take 2 Years

BK2809125993 Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Sep 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Hope in Space"]

[Text] India must yet wait to join the higher bracket of space club. With the first developmental flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) having, even after a perfect lift-off, failed in its mission of injecting the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, India's ambition to join the exclusive space club of a few countries with capability to place a one-tonne payload in a polar sun-synchronous orbit has been thwarted, at least, for the time being. It would be another two years before another such experimental flight of the PSLV—which in this instance took over a decade to materialise—can be attempted. This is, no doubt, disheartening news especially for the scientists and engineers closely involved in the project who had pinned much hope on its success. The more so as the rocket incorporated an array of indigenous technologies. The most important of these was the liquid propulsion fuel and equipment. In fact, the unsymmetrical dimethyl hydrazine (UDMH) technology for this was successfully developed by the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] scientists after the French reneged on their promise to provide it. This resulted in a delay of the PSLV launch, originally scheduled for the end of 1992. Other similar breakthroughs, included the maraging steel (which, being considered strategic, set alarm bells ringing in many developed countries) the 2.8 metre (diameter) solid booster and the flex nozzle. The launch was to provide a test of their viability. Indeed, in a sense, a successful PSLV launch was being held up as a curtain-raiser to the more ambitious cryogenic propulsion for the much larger GSLV [Geostationary Launch Vehicle] rocket, a challenge thrown at ISRO after U.S. pressure had forced Russia to backtrack on its promise to provide the said technology. The abortive launch therefore is a setback for ISRO and India's civilian rocket programme at a most inopportune moment. Nonetheless, undue criticism of ISRO's performance is uncalled for. Failures are a part and parcel of the risky launch vehicle game. The space history of even the most technologically advanced countries like the U.S. is dotted with such tragedies. In fact in the space business, a one in ten failure over a long term is taken for granted. By that standard, India's record of three successful rocket launches out of a total of eight attempted thus far is not disheartening. Besides, as ISRO chairman U.R. Rao himself described, the PSLV launch is "a mixed bag of success". The successful performance of the PSLV at the earlier stages, including the first stage of solid propellant motor and the liquid propellant second stage, was cause for satisfaction. Although some anomaly during the third-stage propulsion is believed to have frustrated the launch, only a thorough investigation would reveal what led to the failure of the PSLV. The

last-minute postponement of the launch scheduled for September 19 indicates that there were already doubts about the launch. If so, it needs to be investigated whether all precautions for a 100 percent successful launch were taken or not. It needs to be questioned whether more on ground tests were needed to eliminate the risk of failures. Thus while the PSLV failure should be no reason to discourage India from forging ahead in its mission of putting satellites into space, the launch vehicle business being extremely risky and resource taxing, we must also not be impatient for success.

Iran

Velayati Assails UN Role in Bosnia, Gaza-Jericho

LD2909211593 Tehran IRNA in English 1958 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] United Nations HQ (New York), Sept. 29, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here today that "the United Nations has not acted properly, effectively and expeditously in defending Bosnia-Herzegovina."

In his speech at an Islamic conference here on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, Velayati said: "Throughout the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina the Security Council has been reluctant to shoulder its responsilities in reversing the Serbian aggression against the republic...

"There can be no justification whatsoever for the lack of decisive response on the part of the Security Council in face of continuous Serbian aggression than safeguarding the short-sighted political interests of a few countries which preach respect for human rights."

He said the Security Council has in fact forced Bosnia-Herzegovina to accept the status quo

Velayati emphasized that from the beginning the Islamic Republic has welcomed a peaceful solution to the problem in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said that an international war crimes tribunal should be formed without delay so that it will "try and punish those who have committed crimes in former Yugoslavia."

He said that OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] member countries have proven the fact that "today the Islamic ummah is considered by the international community as a serious front which determined to defend justice and rule of law in international relations. The coordinated positions of the Islamic countries with regard to the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and during the recent world conference on human rights clearly show that Islamic countries cannot be marginalized."

Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Hamid Algabid, was also present at the session along with ambassadors from several Islamic states.

The Iranian foreign minister also depored the continuation of occupation of Palestine, Golan Heights and South Lebanon saying it is a cause of concern to the people of Iran who have adhered to "consistent and principled position in rejecting aggression since the inception of the Islamic revolution.

"In our opinion, the only genuine and lasting solution to the problem is through reversing and delegitimizing the aggression and the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including the establishment of a Palestinian state in the entire territory of Palestine and the return of al-Quds [Jerusalem] which is sacred for all Muslims.

"Since the recent (Gaza-Jericho) accord does not embrace the above mentioned criteria, my country cannot consider that accord as a vehicle towards the attainment of the rights of Palestinian people."

In relation to Afghanistan Velayati said: "We rejoiced at the victory of the people of Afghanistan... it is incumbent upon all of us to assist the people and Government of Afghanistan in their endeavors to achieve peace, normalcy and economic development bearing in mind the importance of respect for Afghanistan sovereignty, its territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs.

Towards the end of his speech, he said that Islamic Iran has also done its best to arrive at a peaceful solution to the conflicts in Tajikistan and Azerbaijan.

"With the agresssion against and continued occupation of Azeri territories by Armenian forces we have redoubled our efforts to find an amicable solution to the conflict based on the withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijan and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan."

Amrollahi: Israel Main Obstacle to Nuclear Free Zone

LD2909182393 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Vienna, Sept. 29, IRNA—Head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Reza Amrollahi, repeated the Islamic Republic's call for the establishment of a nuclear free zone in the region and said Israel's refusal to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear facilities as well as Zionist disregard for the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT), were the main obstacles in this regard.

Amrollahi, here for the 37th regular session of the IAEA said the western media were indulging in false propaganda against Iran and Pakistan, when the Zionist regime was the "core" of nuclear threat in the region.

In a talks with IRNA, Amrollahi, who also holds the post of Iran's vice-president, pointed to the Zionist influence and lobby in the western press, especially in the U.S. and as an example referred to the hue and cry raised over

North Korea's nuclear program and their complete silence over Israel's nuclear capabilities.

He also called the U.N. Security Council "a tool in the hands of western powers, especially the U.S. for political gains".

Amrollahi praised Iran-IAEA relations, especially in technical fields and promised full cooperation with the agency, as in the past, on the basis of peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Tehran Clerics Condemn PLO-Israel Accord

NC2909141193 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 19 Sep 93 p 2

["Text" of statement by the Tehran Militant Clergy Association on 19 September in Qom]

[Text] O valiant and heroic people of Iran: A dishonorable and treasonous accord was signed at the White House last week that has pierced the heart of the heroic and courageous Palestinian nation like a sword.

With its dubious moves, the criminal U.S. regime is seeking to inflict blows on the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The traitorous hands of the Zionist regime can be seen behind all these moves.

The atrophied and ailing brains in the White House, the CIA, and the Pentagon are nurturing hopes of inflicting a blow on Islam and Muslims all over the world and are revealing their true faces in accordance with a premeditated plan. One of the scenarios of this conspiracy was staged last week by the PLO and Israel. However, despite all the enemy's efforts, the tendancy toward Islam and morality in Islamic countries and all over the world is proliferating. Islamic leanings in the Islamic homelands and a tendency toward morality are growing and expanding swiftly all over the world.

It is because of the nature of Koranic gnosis which is opposed to world Arrogance that noble and revolutionary Muslims can never reconcile with the tyrant. We cannot bear to cast a glance even from the corner of our eyes at those who, in the name of peace, perpetrate the most treacherous atrocities of the contemporary era against mankind.

The freedom-loving people of the world know that the PLO is neither the representative of the Palestinians nor is the occupied Jerusalem regime legitimate and lawful. Therefore any kind of accord between these two does not have any historical or documentary value.

The truth-loving people of the world should know that the accord signed in the White House was not a peace accord but a joint pact of decrepit and abject elements with Zionist terrorists for the suppression of the intifadah!

This pact in fact signifies a new military display before the barefoot Palestinian forces who have no weapons but stones and the cry of "God is Great." Those who are aware should know that this marks the beginning of an official war against the hallowed Palestinian aspirations, not the commencement of a durable peace in the region!

The epic-making intifadah uprising remains steadfast as a resistant and immovable rock which has no doubts about its continued course. The people of the occupied territories who have ridiculed the myth of the invincibility of the despotic Israeli forces by staging their uprising will never be thwarted in the continuation of their sacred struggle against the Zionists. The PLO should know that it was the militant intifadah that resulted in the Tel Aviv regime being forced to sign an accord with 'Arafat. The bread which the PLO is eating today came from the hot oven of the intifadah.

The Palestinian people should be assured that their uprising will definitely attain victory, as the valuable experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran is illuminating their path like a brilliant beacon. The hearts of the billion devout Muslims are pulsating for the attainment of the Palestinian aspirations. The day for the liberation of dear Jerusalem is not too far off. Those Arab governments that are being influenced by the venomous propaganda about this treacherous accord and which harbor delusions of preempting its liberation with the establishment of such a peace and subsequent relations with Israel, should know that regardless of how far they distance themselves from Islam, the Koran, and the aspirations of the oppressed Palestinian nation, the chasm between them and their people will continue to widen.

By such disreputably close proximity to their enemies, they have given their own people an opportunity to get closer to Islam and the values of the Koran and to traverse the path to success and prosperity solely by relying on the Koran. This is because there is no path to salvation except through following the prescription of Islam for deliverance from the evil of the infidels and the hypocrites.

The Tehran Militant Clergy Association considers that it is obligated to provide unconditional support to the glorious intifadah movement and wants the Islamic Republic of Iran's government to place all its resources, as it did in the past, in support of this sacred movement and to assess all possible ways and means for providing assistance to the intifadah.

It is essential that new preliminary measures be assessed in the various fields in order to assist the Palestinian people.

Paper Says Destruction of Israel 'Only Solution'

NC2909125693 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 Sep 93 pp 1,3

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Dossier Will Only Be Closed With the Destruction of Israel"]

[Text] 'Arafat too now carries the scourge of subservience to Israel. However, the fire of the struggle against

the occupier Israel is still aflame and will become hotter thanks to the existence of devoted Muslims.

The signing of the surrender of 'Arafat and his faction to Israel may have been portrayed by Zionist propaganda as "the end of the Palestine adventure." However, no one can declare that the breathtaking dossier of the struggle of the Palestinian nation and of the world of Islam against the occupiers of Palestine has been closed.

The struggle for the liberation of dear Jerusalem and for the complete liberation of the Muslim country of Palestine will continue, and treason by one or several people or by an organization cannot mar the unflinching determination of the world of Islam to safeguard this Islamic land.

Even though 'Arafat's treason and abjectness are very painful facts, nevertheless we have seen many instances when treacherous leaders have left their nations alone in the middle of the road of their breathtaking struggles against an enemy. But nations have never stalled. They have always set aside such leaders and have continued their struggle with more determination until their final victory.

Even though 'Arafat and his treacherous associates have tried to attribute their abjectness to the entire Palestinian nation, nevertheless the zealous Palestinian nation's strong rage these past days shows that 'Arafat has been unsuccessful and that from now on he will have nothing to gain.

'Arafat has descended to such a degree of abjectness that even the clothing he was to wear to the signing of the accord was determined by Israel. It is true that what 'Arafat wears will not affect the fate of the accord. But with such acts the enemy wants to demoralize the other side and to prove its position of diktat so that from now on 'Arafat will give in to any of the occupying enemy's wishes.

Even though 'Arafat's surrender to Israel has definitely inflicted a great blow on Palestine and is considered irreparable treason, nevertheless the Palestinian nation can contain the impact of this great treason and can continue on its path with the same firm determination that it has shown until now. All existing facts show that the Palestinian nation has alertly and correctly chosen the path that it wants to follow and is preparing itself to confront the impact and repercussions of 'Arafat's treason. Naturally this path has many ups and downs, but one should realize that today's incidents have revealed the true nature of all those who falsely claim to be combatants.

Things have now been clarified and the true front of struggle against Israel has become more pure. Nevertheless treason should be confronted, and at the same time, the true combatants for the liberation of Palestine and dear Jerusalem should bear in mind the fact that these events have only revealed the liars.

Everyone knows that it is many years now since the PLO laid down the banner of true struggle against Israel and demoted itself to the rank of an "unworthy spy" for the occupying Israel. 'Arafat's faction prides itself these days in "deceiving" the active members of the intifadah and granting Israel the opportunity to crush the Islamic uprising of Palestine. Naturally today the Palestinians are in a much better position to realize the bitter truth that 'Arafat and his associates cannot be trusted.

Nevertheless, the treason committed by 'Arafat and his associates should not be overlooked. Everyone should completely clarify their stances on this and show whether they are a friend or a foe. It is only with the addition of these pages that the history of the Palestinian nation will become more complete; it is absolutely necessary that the world of Islam understand the various aspects of this tragedy on this basis.

The Palestinian nation's friends and foes have shown their true nature more clearly these days. Actually the true struggle against the occupier Israel will become more serious once the front of struggle is further purified. The only solution to the Palestinian problem is the destruction of Israel. This is something that the history of struggles during the past half century has shown and something that the future too will prove. With the rage that it is expressing today, the Palestinian nation is showing that it is ready to clarify its future course and to continue its struggle.

Editorial: Accord To Lead to Islamic 'Awakening'

NC2709111193 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 18 Sep 93 pp 1-2

[Editorial: "Palestine: Look at the Future"]

[Text] A few days after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord, reactions in Middle East countries and especially among Islamic countries speak of bitter truths that must be studied. Apart from Iran and Libya, the Islamic countries have either directly or indirectly endorsed and accepted this accord and are awaiting an opportunity to take quicker steps toward fulfilling the wants and views of the United States and the Zionist regime.

The weak and disgraceful stance of Arab countries has created a deep rift among Arab-Islamic countries and has made conditions for continuing the struggle against the arrogant objectives of the United States much more difficult. Doubtless, this accord will create difficult conditions and circumstances not only for the Palestinian strugglers, but also for Islamic movements and the independence-seeking strugglers of the Muslim people of the Middle East. And since this accord will not lead to a true and just Palestinian solution, hopefully, fundamental movements of the militant Palestinian forces and groups and Islamic movements in the region will make it difficult for the Zionists and the compromisers to achieve their sinister goals.

The rift in the PLO, the adherence by various anti-'Arafat Palestinian groups to the opposition camp and

the continuing intifadah in Palestine, which has broadened during recent days, have caused concern and apprehension among the Zionists and the compromisers. For years, the Palestinian problem was considered the sole element uniting the Arabs. The Palestinian problem constituted a basis on which Arab countries operated to avert a rift and to preserve their Arabic-Islamic identity. 'Arafat's effort in reaching a historic compromise with the Zionist regime crushed many hopes.

But while the Arabs and conservative Middle East countries have had to give in to this compromising trend because they depend on the United States, you can easily feel their concern for their future, since they know that the dismantling of the trenches of resistance will see them unable to withstand the strong wind of developments.

Arab nationalism has been buried with 'Arafat's compromise and the Arabs—conservative and nonconservative—have lost the shield that could safeguard them from the strong wind of developments. The deep rift created between the people and the leaders of Arab countries will make these countries more dependent on the United States and the West; this will result in two things. First, these regimes will become more vulnerable to pressure by the United States and Israel. Second, popular disillusion will increase, people will turn more toward Islamic movements, and the future of these countries will be determined by their Islamic identity, which is the only alternative left for the Muslims in the Middle East to emerge from the current disgraceful situation. This will emerge as a historic reality.

Apparently, although 'Arafat's compromise is considered as a big point in favor of the United States and the Zionists under the circumstances, it is also the beginning of a new chapter in Middle East developments, which will lead to a more rapid growth of Islamic and popular awakening in these countries and will ultimately revive the historic identity of the Middle East. The resistance being displayed by the Muslim Palestinians today to the strong wind of developments will have fateful results. This is why the Zionists are seeking ways to crush the Islamic movements in the Middle East, particularly the intifadah in Palestine and the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon.

Commentary on U.S. Charges of Links With Aidid

LD2409211293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA, reports that the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Mrs. Madeleine Albright, on Thursday, 23 September, in a speech in the U.S. National Defense Academy in Washington D.C., claimed there is evidence showing that a tactical unity is being formed between General Aidid in Somalia and the terrorist groups in Sudan, as well as the Iranian Government.

Evidently this is not the first time the U.S. officials, in order to justify their domineering policies, accuse Iran and the countries which oppose the U.S. domination of defending terrorism. In the past, too, the United States has repeatedly attempted to launch poisonous propaganda against countries with independent stances under various pretexts and by making use of its extensive facilities in the international mass media.

Nevertheless, Washington's new scenario, which has been designed by the CIA and brought up by the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is noteworthy, for seemingly the White House needs to further justify the public opinion in the United States to use further violence against the supporters of General Aidid in Somalia.

Considering that presently the U.S. press are questioning the U.S. suppressive policies in Somalia, and in this relation believe that the United States, by directly confronting General Aidid, has made out of this unknown general an individual who has presently turned into a symbol of resistance against the United States in Somalia. Hence they believe that the United States must pave the way for the famine-stricken people in Somalia instead of confronting General Aidid, and not concentrating all its efforts on suppressing a rebellious general, for the U.S. objective in entering Somalia had been to help famine-stricken people.

But today the U.S. objective has been limited to arresting Aidid and his supporters, and it has not been successful in this relation either. To counter such propaganda, which has seriously brought Washington's policies in Somalia under question, the White House has once again brought up the issue of the scarecrow of fundamentalism and terrorism so as to be able to find a logical justification for more severe suppressions in Somalia in the public opinion, like the Cold War era when confrontation with communism and preventing their danger was used as a pretext for U.S. military intervention in Cuba, Vietnam and Korea.

Since, following the collapse of the Soviet Union and communism, this suitable pretext has been almost removed, the theoreticians in the U.S. universities, by overplaying the danger of the Islamic fundamentalism, are trying to picture Muslim peoples' general inclination toward implementation of the Islamic laws in the remotest regions of the world as a horrible dragon which does not do anything other than terror, bloodshed and crime.

Considering these realities, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Mrs. Madeleine Albright's attempt to show cooperation between General Aidid and Sudan, as well as Iran, can be comprehended. The U.S. Administration thinks that by bringing up these baseless accusations it can justify the public opinion toward its suppressive policies in Somalia, not knowing that the world people have not still forgotten the results of the investigations about the consignment of the China's Yinhe ship, which the United States had claimed was carrying chemicals for Iran. The White House is not yet free from the scandal of

that story, when once again, by changing the topic of chemicals to support for terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism, it is trying to distort the world public opinion toward a performance of independent governments which do not wish to accept Washington's domination.

But who is there ...no does not know that this propaganda is a repetition of a baseless issue which has been designed by the CIA.

Military Presence in Kurdish Areas Increased

PM2909114793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Sep 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Iran Reinforces Its Military Positions in Areas Inhabited by Kurds"]

[Excerpts] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Amid reports of attacks being launched by Kurdish fighters Iran has begun to reinforce its military positions in areas inhabited predominantly by Kurds. Reports from Kermanshahan, Kordestan, and Azarbaijan-e Gharbi, where Kurds form a majority, talk of the possibility of armed Kurdish groups launching an attack on the central government forces. Kurdish fighters have launched 18 attacks since July—a big increase compared with the number of attacks launched last years.

Officials reports say that 13 Revolutionary Guard elements operating on the border have been killed, 85 wounded, and four Revolutionary Guard elements captured by the Kurds.

Analysts see the escalation in these attacks as evidence that the main Kurdish group, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, has probably lost every hope of initiating a dialogue with Tehran and decided to return to the armed struggle strategy. [passage omitted]

The party now seems to be convinced that a dialogue cannot be initiated with Tehran as long as the ruling mullahs continue to insist on banning all opposition groups and parties.

The deterioration in the relationship between Tehran and the Iraqi Kurds' self-indepedent "government" in Irbil has led to Iranian Kurds being encouraged to switch to the offensive. And as Iranian Kurdish oppositionists are present inside Iraqi territories, they need the goodwill of both the Irbil authorities and the Baghdad government in order to launch their operations against Iranian positions.

IRGC's Reza'i on Country's 'Influential' Status

LD2509083793 Tehran IRNA in English 0633 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., Sept. 25, IRNA—A senior military commander underlined Iran's present status as an "influential power" in the Persian Gulf region and noted that the country proved its capabilities during the 1980-88 holy defense.

Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Mohsen Reza'i was speaking here Friday on the occasion of the 'Holy Defense Week' (September 22-28). He described the holy defense an unforgettable event in the history of the Islamic revolution and a turning point in the history of the country.

The IRGC commander stressed that the eight-year imposed war was an epoch-making fight with the conspiracies of domestic and foreign enemies in order to further stabilize the Islamic Republic.

* Mohtashemi Restricted From Travel Abroad

93LA0237F London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Aug 93 p 12

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the nation's former minister of the interior and the Islamic Republic's former ambassador to Syria, does not have the right to leave the country. Apparently he has a file in the Special Clerical Court that goes back to the time of the publication of the monthly BAYAN, which made so many disclosures that it was no sooner printed than it became scarce. This is why the winners of that round of the power struggle thought the best thing was to prevent the publication of this annoying journal. However, instead of cancelling its concession, they ordered the printing houses not to print BAYAN. KEYHAN's printing house, where BAYAN was published, let Mohtashemi know that it had been given a notice, and of course the other printing houses were not approached.

However, there are other reasons for preventing 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi from leaving the country, mostly related to Lebanon and the Hizballah. Mohtashemi, who is one of the founders of the Hizballah in Lebanon, has the idea that the main responsibility of this religious and political organization is the destruction of Israel. Although the current leaders of the Islamic Republic may not openly oppose this goal, they want the Hizballah in Lebanon mainly as a means of applying pressure to implement their foreign policy, and at the same time they are avoiding strengthening the Hizballah so much that it could cause a conflict with Syria.

However, if Mohtashemi got into Lebanon, the Islamic Republic's policy of limited support for the Hizballah could be disrupted, and this is not something the Islamic Republic wants.

In the recent events in Lebanon, which were the harshest clashes between Israel and the Hizballah since the 1982-1985 war, Mohtashemi, in a statement which left no room for misunderstanding, accused the government of the Islamic Republic, along with Syria, of collaborating secretly with Israel to disarm the Hizballah, of course without any fanfare or propaganda, so that the Hizballah would be removed as an obstacle to reconciliation between Syria and Israel.

Yitzhak Rabin has said recently that Israel has reached important and hopeful understandings with Syria and

the government of Lebanon. Informed diplomatic sources say that during a trip Velayati made to Damascus, Hafiz al-Asad let him know that if he did not pacify the Hizballah, he would put them down by force.

Pakistan

Leaders Condemn Wyne's Murder, Assure Timely Elections

BK2909145693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne, former Punjab chief minister and provincial president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group, was assassinated near Talamba, 15 km of Mian Channun this morning. According to APP, Mr. Wyne was coming back to Mian Channun after election campaign when his car was stopped on the road by three armed persons. The culprits broke the side screens of the car, pulled Mr. Wyne out of the vehicle, and fired a burst from point blank, killing him on the spot. According to the agency, the culprits did not flee from the place of the incident before they ensured that Mr. Wyne was dead.

In Lahore, a Punjab government spokesman told PTV this evening that according to preliminary probe, Mr. Wyne's vehicle was stopped by four persons while he was returning from a village Nusratpur. The assailants fired at the vehicle, dragged Mr. Wyne out of the vehicle and shot him dead. The probe further reveals that one notorious criminal, Jahangir Maluka, who was involved in nine murder cases, was killed in a police encounter in August 1992. His son Iqbal and other heirs had been blaming Mr. Wyne, his close aide Tauqir Shah, and the local SHO [Station House Officer] for the killing of Jahangir Maluka. They had threatened them with dire consequences. Heavy contingent of police is carrying out an intensive manhunt.

The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has expressed shock and anguish at the brutal assassination of Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne. Strongly condemning the dastardly act, the acting president regretted that a dedicated, devoted, and sincere political leader fell victim to the acts of some desperate criminals. Paying tributes to the late Mr. Wyne, the acting president described him as an out of the ordinary politician who remained wedded to Pakistan's ideology till his last breath. In his death, not only his party but Pakistan has lost an eminent and selfless political personality, the president added. He hoped that his friends and colleagues in the Pakistan Muslim League, as well as innumerable admirers, will bear this great loss with patience and fortitude and contain their grief and sorrow as a tribute to Mr. Wyne's memory.

The prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has been shocked to learn about the outrageous shooting incident near Mian Channun, resulting in the death of former Chief Minister of Punjab Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne. In a statement in Islamabad today, he said this is obviously an attempt on the part of certain elements who have been trying to disrupt law and order situation on the eve of the elections. The prime minister said: I have previously been condemning few such tragic incidents which occurred at Karachi, Lahore, Gilgit, and Faisalabad. While the administration is making all possible efforts in a vigorous manner to trace out the culprits, a new dimension has been added in attempting to disrupt electoral process by targeting on a prominent political leader. The prime minister said with all the emphasis at my command I deplore the introduction of such primitive and wild methods of violence in national life to adversely affect the election campaign which is now in its final stage. Such foul attempts, he said, will not deter the government from our resolve to hold the elections on due dates according to our commitment. The prime minister appealed to all political parties, particularly to which Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne belonged, to exercise restraint and tolerance which is the need of the hour. Mr. Moin Qureshi said he is also directing the administration to ensure that suitable measures are taken for the security and protection of political leaders during the election campaign. The prime minister assured that the culprits involved in the murder of Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne will be brought to book and given exemplary punishment in a speedy trial court.

Expressing his deep shock and sorrow, the chief election commissioner, Mr. Justice, retired, Naimuddin, said any act of violence will not thwart the election process. Talking to APP in Islamabad, he appealed to the political parties, leaders, and workers to keep calm and maintain peace and harmony as any disturbance during the election campaign will not be conducive to the establishment of democratic institutions nor would it be good to the people and the country. He assured that elections will be held on scheduled dates and any effort to sabotage the process will be foiled.

The minister of information and broadcasting, Mr. Nisar A. Memon, has also expressed deep shock and anguish over the sad assassination of Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne and condemned this dastardly and cowardly murder. Messages expressing profound grief and shock over the tragic death of Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne are pouring in from all over the country.

Nawaz Sharif, Bhutto Comment

BK2909163893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, president of the Pakistan Muslim League—Nawaz Group, has expressed sincere sorrow and grief at the tragic death of Ghulam Haider Wyne. In a statement issued in Islamabad, he has asked the Muslim League leaders and workers and voters to stage protest rallies to condemn the assassination. The party secretary general, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, while addressing a news conference in Islamabad today appealed to the

party workers and well-wishers to exercise maximum patience and restraint so that elections could be held in an orderly manner.

Pakistan People's Party [PPP] Chairwoman Begun Nusrat Bhutto has strongly condemned the tragic assassination of Ghulam Haider Wyne. In her condolence message, she said on the eve of elections when the whole nation is looking forward to a new democratic phase, the tragic assassination of Haider Wyne can only be the work of those who do not want to see Pakistan prosper through a democratic process.

PPP Cochairwoman Benazir Bhutto in a condolence message has said that efforts of Pakistan's enemies, who want to destabilize the country, should be foiled. She said the assassination should be investigated and the culprits punished. She expressed sympathy with the bereaved family and said Ghulam Haider Wyne was a true Pakistani and prominent politician.

Pakistan Islamic Front Leader Qazi Hussain Ahmad in a statement issued in Lahore has said that the trend toward violence in politics is harmful for the country. He appealed to all sections of the society to remain peaceful at this crucial juncture of the general elections and foil the designs of enemies.

Retired Lieutenant General Mohammad Iqbal, the acting governor of Punjab, while condemning this brutal killing has said that the culprits will not be able to escape from the tight grip of the law. He added that late Mr. Wyne was a prominent parliamentarian whose services for democracy will be remembered for a long time.

Among others who have expressed condolences are Acting Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Mir Mohammad Naserullah Mengal, Sindh Assembly Speaker Abdul Razak Khan, Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Jafaria Leader Syed Hamid Ali Shah Musavi, and Jamiat-I-Ulema-I-Pakistan-Niazi Group Secretary General Haji Mohammad Hanif Taiyab. Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan and Acting Prime Minister Mohammad Yusuf have also lamented the death of Ghulam Haider Wyne.

Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister Nisar Memon in a condolence message to the widow of late leader has condemned this dastardly assassination during the election campaign. He expressed the confidence that the culprits will be arrested and soon be brought to book. He prayed to the almighty God to provide courage and strength to bear this irreparable loss.

Over 100,000 Troops To Assist in Holding Elections

BK2309162093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Pakistan Army has drawn up an election plan to assist the Election Commission in the conduct of free, fair, and transparent elections in a peaceful atmosphere. A spokesman of the Election Commission told a special briefing in Rawalpindi today that the plan included vigilance at polling stations, maintenance of law and order, and security of the election staff. He said over 100,000 personnel of the Armed Forces would be involved in election-related duties without compromising security on the borders.

Iran Invited To Send Observers to Upcoming Elections

BK2409025493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Pakistan has invited Iran to send its observers to review the upcoming elections in Pakistan. According to ASSOCIATED PRESS of PAKISTAN, this invitation was extended by Caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi to the deputy foreign minister of Iran, Ala'eddin Borujerdi, who called on him in Islamabad yesterday. Borujerdi thanked the prime minister for this offer.